

JPRS 82242

16 November 1982

Latin America Report

No. 2605



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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ASSEMBLY HEARS BACKGROUND TO HIGHER ELECTRICITY RATES

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 8 Oct 82 pp 1, 10

[Article by Gladstone Thurston]

[Text]

FAMILY ISLANDERS will be hit with an increase in the cost of electricity. Minister of Works and Utilities A Loftus Roker told the House of Assembly this morning.

The Government, he said, has already approved an increase in the cost of electricity for New Providence consumers. Details were not made available.

Mr Roker was addressing the House during debate on the Speech from the Throne which outlines government legislative policies proposed during the opening of Parliament.

Because of the increasing cost of fuel, Mr Roker said it was felt that reliance on the gas turbines, which presently is the main source of electricity generation, is very costly and those plant are not the most efficient that can be used.

The decision was taken, he said, to go to the slower running diesel generators, and Bahamas Electricity Corporation (BEC) was going through a \$50 million expansion and upgrading of the electricity supply for New Providence.

Once those plans come on stream, he said, the cost of fuel would be greatly reduced because of the more efficient use of the cheaper diesel fuel which would be used. This, he said, would result in a

reduction in the cost of fuel which would be reflected in the fuel surcharge consumers are now forced to pay.

"However, the House needs to know that for almost two years Bahamas Electricity Corporation has been losing on its operation and had to be subsidised by the Government," Mr Roker said. "There are several causes for this, but the main one is that there has been no increases in the basic electricity rate at BEC since 1973."

Mr Roker admitted that he too sometimes gets confused when he receives his electricity bill for, while there has been no increase in the basic rate bills are still going up.

Bills go up, he said, because each month or quarter consumers pay for the increase in the cost of fuel.

"When you consider that we have had several increases in the cost of labour, tremendous increases in the cost of material, then you can see that no business can continue to operate without increasing its rate per term," Mr Roker said.

The rates in Grand Bahama, he said, are much higher than the rates paid by the people in New Providence and there is a request now for an increase in the cost of electricity for Grand Bahama consumers.

In Freeport, for the first 30 kilowatts, consumers pay 7.75

cents per kilowatt hour; for the next 500 kilowatts they pay 5.75 cents; for the next 280 kilowatts, they pay 5.25 cents, and anything over that is charged at 3.75 cents per kilowatt hour.

"That is designed, and I am not trying to criticise anybody, to benefit the big users and not the small users (of electricity)," Mr Roker said. "The less electricity you use in Freeport, the more money you pay."

"This used to be the case in New Providence. A year ago the Government decided that we ought to weigh the charges in favour of the small users. The rates start off small and gets bigger."

The Government, Mr Roker said, has had for some time now a request from the Freeport Power and Light Company for permission to change their system and charge one flat rate of 7 cents per kilowatt hour for all residential users. He did not say whether that proposal was being considered.

Mr Roker confirmed that the Government recently did approve increases in the cost of electricity for New Providence consumers. He said there will also be increases for Family Island consumers.

"It should be noted that BEC as far as I can recall has not made any profit from their Family Island operations and they always had to subsidise their Family Island operations," Mr Roker said. "We can't allow that subsidy to increase any further. That is

why we also have to increase the rates in the Family Islands."

BEC, he said, has been subsidising Family Island operations up to last year. This year the Government took over the subsidy. The Government was also subsidising the New Providence operation of BEC this year, he said.

The Water Corporation, he said, is at the stage where it is able to supply the water demands for New Providence and Paradise Island. He went on to explain the need to increase the cost of water to the consumers.

"This was necessitated because... when the Government and the Corporation decided to accept financing through the World Bank they agreed that there will be a certain return on the investment, sufficient to enable the Corporation to meet its obligations which it incurred," Mr Roker said.

The World Bank, under the agreement, monitors on a regular basis the operation of the Water Corporation and whenever the Corporation fails to live up to any of the commitments which it made, this is brought to the Corporation's attention and it is asked to remedy the matter.

"Unless some unforeseen thing happens, the Water Corporation will be able to supply the demand for water in New Providence," Mr Roker said. "We are now at the position where we are able to supply the water demands for

New Providence and Paradise Island."

One of the components of the loan from the World Bank to the Water Corporation, was the replacement of the sewer system in Nassau and that, Mr Roker said, is virtually completed except for the repair of the roads over which the construction was done. That will be done shortly, he said.

One problem that has emerged, Mr Roker said, is that Bay Street has been dug up and resurfaced so many times that the road is now almost level with the sidewalk.

Before commencing repair of Bay Street, it will be graded to the proper level and, as promised by Mr Roker, the bumps in the street will be taken out, before it is finally repaved.

He mentioned complaints that although the sewer line has already been laid, there is still ditching going on by other Government agencies.

Mr Roker said he requested other Corporations (BEC, Batelco) to lay their underground equipment now before the road is finally paved.

It is his Ministry's intention, Mr Roker said, to continue construction of new roads and repair existing roads in Mayaguana, Inagua, Long Island, Crooked Island, Exuma, San Salvador, Abaco (completion of the Highway), Acklins, New Providence, Andros and East and West Grand Bahama.

BRAZIL TO ASSIST IN ALCOHOL FUEL FROM SUGAR STUDY

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 18 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

The Barbados Government is to receive technical assistance from the Government of Brazil in looking into the possibility of using its sugar cane to produce fuel for vehicles, head of the Brazilian Embassy here, Romeo Zero, has said.

A study is to be undertaken by Barbados, with assistance from Brazil, to see if it is convenient or economical to turn to alcohol fuel from sugar.

Brazil is a major manufacturer of alcohol from sugar cane. Seventy-five per cent of the country's cars run on gasohol, a mixture of alcohol (20 per cent) and gasoline (80 per cent).

"It is a matter of making a serious study of how much foreign exchange Barbados would save in producing alcohol fuel instead of importing oil and if this would be

better than selling sugar with the foreign currency you are getting from sugar," the Brazilian diplomat said.

Barbados this year produced 85 550 tonnes of sugar, the lowest production figure since the 78 226 tonnes of 1948.

At the same time, production costs have been high and export prices low.

World sugar prices are so low that Brazil has stopped trying to export the commodity and is turning as much as possible of its huge cane harvest into alcohol to run its cars.

Last year, Barbados imported more than 1.25 million barrels of crude oil and other fuels at a cost of \$143.6 million (Bds\$1 equals 50 cents US).

The Brazilian official said that his government would also be giving Barbados assistance in the training of its coast guard.

ELECTRICITY CORPORATION DISCUSSES FACTORS BEHIND RATE HIKE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Oct 82 pp 1, 5

[Text]

(GNA) — The Guyana Electricity Corporation's announced increases in power charges were the result of rising costs of maintenance, large sums of money spent on rehabilitation and the implementation of capital works, a corporation official said yesterday.

John Backhouse, Commercial Manager, of the Corporation said, however, that with improved efficiency and reliability, it was expected that consumers would have to share the costs.

The corporation recently announced that there would be an average increase in the tariffs amounting to about 13 per cent more than the previous rates.

The last increase in charges occurred in March last year, and it is felt that in view of the cost factor, the present increase represented an average yearly increase of about seven per cent.

It was also pointed out that one of the objectives of the re-structuring of the tariffs, is to "ensure a more equitable" distribution of consumer costs.

Backhouse explained that formerly, industry was paying more than the relative costs when compared to residences and the new rates would slightly redress the imbalance.

One of the points raised by consumers was the introduction of a new monthly charge of \$2.30, which was interpreted as a charge for reading the meter.

However, Backhouse explained that the \$2.30 was being charged for reading and maintaining the meter, computing accounts, delivering accounts and collecting payments.

For example, the new charge means that tariff "A" consumers would have to pay firstly, \$2.30 as a fixed charge plus 39 cents per unit for each unit up to 50. After the first unit, the additional cost would be 68 cents per unit.

This special rate affects over 86 000 customers but does not include consumers who have business places combined with their residences.

It was also disclosed that approximately 30 per

cent of GEC's customers utilise 50 and under 50 units per month.

Backhouse said a small percentage of consumers would actually pay less under the new structure.

Formerly there was a minimum charge of \$3.50 for any consumer using electricity. Under the new structure a customer could pay less than \$3.50.

He gave as examples a consumer using only two units per month because he has only one light bulb or the occupant who is away from home for a month.

If such a consumer had to pay according to the old rates, he would have to pay \$3.50. But now he would have to pay \$2.30 plus 68 cents which amount to \$2.98.

Backhouse emphasised the Corporation's continuing desire that the average resident, who uses, for example, a radio, a refrigerator and an electric iron, in addition to light bulbs, could benefit from the lower charges under tariff "A".

He declared: "Obviously, if residential consumers conserve electricity to a maximum fifty units, they would have to pay lower rates."

He admitted, however, that an average household with a refrigerator, electric iron and radio, plus lights, would find it difficult to maintain that maximum, although, there are thirty per cent residences within that bracket.

"Backhouse also admitted that the gas turbine was an expensive component of the GEC, since it was operating on high-powered gas."

He gave two reasons for the GEC using the gas turbine: Firstly there are at present only two steam turbines in operation and they are unable to provide the power required to meet the demand.

Secondly, while it is more costly to use the gas turbine, it is the only way to minimise load-shedding.

Consumers, he felt, would prefer to pay an additional cost and receive a more reliable

supply of power, instead of being subjected to continuous load shedding.

Did this mean that the introduction of the new rates would mean less blackouts?

Mr. Backhouse said that the Corporation had delayed the introduction of the new structure until the situation had improved and if there were no unforeseen problems, there would certainly be less load shedding.

He said, he wished to assure customers that the GEC's intention is not to strive towards the making of surpluses, but to be an economically-viable institution which can pay for itself while providing an essential service to the nation.

He stated that the Corporation had been operating at a deficit of several millions of dollars. He added that even though the new rates have been introduced the GEC would still end this year with a four million dollar deficit.

[Editor's Note: The increase in electricity rates quickly drew a protest from the Guyana Trades Union Congress, which persisted in its opposition, as noted in this report from the Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English of 22 October 1982, page 5:

[The Executive Council of the Guyana Trades Union Congress on Wednesday maintained its position on the question of the new electricity charges which were recently announced by the Guyana Electricity Corporation.

[General Secretary of the TUC Joseph Pollydore said yesterday that the executive council maintained its position that the increase in electricity charges is beyond the means of the workers.

[Cde Pollydore said that the TUC is concerned at the fact that the new rates were implemented even before the organisation had a meeting with the Minister of Energy and Mines, Cde Hubert Jack.

[He explained that efforts were made to meet the Minister long before the date when the new charges were to be implemented.]

CSO: 3298/065

GEC TO INCREASE POWER SUPPLY THIS YEAR BY 4 MILLION KWH

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

THE Guyana Electricity Corporation (GEC) expects to generate 259 158 656 kilowatt hours in 1982, an increase of four million over last year's output.

This was revealed at last Wednesday's hearings of the Central Incentives Committee (CIC) of the State Planning Secretariat, when the GEC submitted its incentives proposals for 1982.

In its proposals, the corporation has set itself five targets aimed at improving its operational efficiency and maximising its service to consumers.

The corporation's targets include — an increase in the units of power generated — a reduction in the loss of power which occurs during the transmission of electricity — increase in the collection of outstanding debts — a reduction of overtime and — a ten per cent reduction in operating costs.

During the hearings, GEC officials expressed

great concern over the fact that electricity stealing has assumed alarming proportions. One senior official estimated that in 1980, over \$26 million in electricity charges were lost through poaching.

He explained that over 42 million dollars in electricity charges was owed to the GEC. Of that amount corporations and ministries owed some \$17 million dollars.

The official told the committee that an increase in the collection of arrears was critical to the corporation's liquidity, since it can assist in reducing GEC's borrowings from the country's banking system and cut interest resulting from bank overdrafts.

In addition, the corporation plans to improve its maintenance of the country's electricity distribution network.

According to its incentives proposals, which have been accepted in principle, if all the targets are achieved, workers can earn up to five weeks tax-free pay.

TIMBER CORPORATION SET TO SAVE ELECTRICITY WITH TURBINE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Oct 82 p 8

[Text]

THE Guyana Timbers Limited (GTL) will save about \$20 000 per month in electricity bills following the reactivation of a steam turbine at its Houston headquarters.

The turbine, commissioned by Vice-President for Agriculture, Hamilton-Green yesterday, was reactivated by the Company's engineering department. It will supply enough power to the compound excluding the main sawmills.

And the Vice-President in an informal chat with management and workers, said that government is prepared to seek the help of foreign experts or firms once their policies are consistent with Guyana's. He added that Guyana

needed friends who are prepared to work and whose objectives "are the same as ours." The Vice-President later toured the plant.

Engineers are now working on the rehabilitation of two reciprocating steam engines that would boost the company's generating capability to about 60 per cent of its internal needs. GTL's monthly electricity bill averages \$50 000.

The corporation, plagued by managerial and operational problems recently, has contracted the Canadian firm of C.D. Schultz to provide managerial assistance, which in turn is paid for by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

BRIEFS

GUYMINE ENERGY CONSERVATION--Guy mine has reported a significant reduction in its fuel consumption in recent months. A report from the company's energy department at Linden said there was a 15 percent decrease in the level of dieseline consumption: 22 percent drop in gasoline usage and 14 percent reduction in the use of Bunker "C" for the second quarter of the year as compared with the corresponding period last year. Guy mine News, organ of the bauxite industry, said the National Energy Authority has expressed satisfaction with the achievement. And the head of Guy mine's Energy Department, Cde Benny Holder said the significant drop in the use of the three primary energy items was indicative of the level of Guy mine's adherence to the energy management programme instituted by the company. Cde Holder attributed the cutback in the use of fuel to increased efficiency in the user departments in adhering to the specific consumption targets set for the period. "In addition, the reduction of the targeted production levels for 1982 allowed for the use of less fuel," the report said. [Excerpt] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Oct 82 p 8]

CSO: 3298/065

BRIEFS

SOLAR ENERGY PLANT--Tegucigalpa--The first plant in Honduras for heating water by means of solar energy was inaugurated yesterday at Valle de Angeles by officials of the CDI, Center for Industrial Development, under the Rural Technology Program directed by Ramon Alberto Sarmiento. This activity is being carried on in Honduras under a coordination and cooperation agreement signed on 30 January 1980 between the Ministry of Economy and Commerce and the Central American Industrial Technology and Research Institute, ICAITI. The general objectives of this subproject include the use of solar energy for drying wood, heating water, the evaporation of sugarcane juice and salt production. The rural technology program operates at an institutional level at the CAAVA, Craftman Training Center of Valle de Angeles. The installation of the plant cost 10,000 lempiras which were provided by ICAITI. It has a capacity of 1,200 gallons of water 24 hours a day and it raises the water temperature between 40 and 50 degrees centigrade. Sarmiento concluded by expressing the hope that the use of this type of generator will increase in factories, industrial plants, government centers, hospitals and other sectors of the nation since besides saving energy, it will help the national economy. [Text] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Sep 82 p 3] 9204

CSO: 3248/87

ADMIRAL ROJAS' SOVEREIGNTY MOVEMENT ON BEAGLE DECISIONS

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Sep 82 p 10

[Text] The Argentine Sovereignty Reaffirmation Movement of the Picton, Lennox, Nueva and other islands of the South Atlantic down to Cape Horn held a meeting with journalists, taking part in which were, besides the president of the organization, Adm (Ret) Isaac F. Rojas, Drs Domingo Sabate Lichtscheine, Luis Alberto Tulasne, Eduardo Basualdo Moine and Ricardo Curutchet, and Comdrs (Ret) Arturo Medrano and Atilio A. Barbadori. All of them made reference, in participatory remarks, to the partial prolongation, beyond its current expiry, of the Argentine-Chilean treaty on the judicial solution of controversies, on the subject of which, according to news reports, our government is on the verge of arriving at a decision within the next few days.

A Risk for Our Country

After refuting the charges of "militarism" being leveled against the organization he heads, Admiral Rojas pointed out that "defending the rights of the nation is not warmongering," and added that he, personally, is a military man but not a militarist.

"A militarist," he said, "believes that a nation must be governed as a military institution; and Argentina is not a barracks but a nation of free men in which dissent must be accepted."

He then addressed the main topic, pointing out that the prolongation of the 1972 treaty involves a risk for our nation.

Other Aspects

During the meeting, it was brought out that not only the 1972 treaty expires on 27 December this year but also the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice of The Hague to render judgement. "It is to be noted," it was said, "that, if Chile were to resort to this Court, the latter would very likely decide in Chile's favor, since the arbitral commission that advised the British crown to arrive at its arbitrament, which was adverse to us, was staffed by five members of that International Court. Although they are no longer part of it, the Court, moved by an esprit de corps, would

almost certainly not hand down a decision contrary to the one that was supported by its members. Furthermore, the International Court of Justice permitted its members to take part in that consultative commission--which is not authorized by its statute--and Argentina could therefore argue its noncompetence. But if it is decided to prolong the effective period of the 1972 treaty, this will also make it possible for the International Court to intervene, since we will no longer be able to claim its noncompetence."

Sea of Peace

At another point in the meeting, it was affirmed that the Pope's proposal is far worse than the arbitrament and gives Chile more territories and maritime rights than did the one contained in the British arbitrament, and that it is therefore difficult to understand recent statements by Ambassador Carlos Ortiz de Rosas. The so-called "sea of peace" proposed by the Pope, it was said, would be a "sea of conflicts," and that one of the most disturbing aspects of the proposed prolongation would be that "Argentina would be bound forever to that mediation."

Admiral Rojas revealed that with regard to a speech the Pope had made to the Argentine and Chilean delegates on 23 April--in which, in Rojas's view, the Pope had exceeded his role as mediator, exhorting the two nations to resolve "all" their disagreements, although he had been requested to try to bring the parties together solely on the specific problem of the Beagle Channel, and pressuring the two countries to agree on his proposal, which Argentina had already rejected in 1981--Rojas had sent a letter to then Foreign Minister Costa Mendez. "The note," said Rojas, "was kept secret until it was published later by mutual agreement with Dr Costa Mendez, who told me that the Foreign Ministry had, for its part, sent a corresponding note to the Vatican protesting the inappropriateness of those interjections."

Admiral Rojas pointed out that a mediation cannot terminate in a proposal and that the logical sequel is that further proposals be made until one of them satisfies both parties.

Dr Tulasne, in one of his contributory remarks, criticized the manner in which the most recent military governments had conducted the negotiations, and especially Lieutenant General Videla's government for its "culpable negligence" in having premised its approach on acceptance of the straight-polygon of the arbitrament instead of basing it on the thesis of the eastern mouth of the Beagle. Criticism was also leveled at Dr Oscar Camilion, who never disclosed what he and the Pope talked about when he visited Rome as minister of foreign relations. The former foreign minister stated, furthermore, in a recent meeting--according to a remark by Dr Curutchet--that the Beagle Channel islands "belong in fact and by right to Chile."

British Interests

"The 1972 treaty," it was commented at another point in the proceedings, "includes juridical wording containing norms that establish the rights and

obligations of the parties. It establishes the procedure for giving notice of its termination [upon withdrawal of one of the parties], which is as good as saying that, once so terminated, this act has all the force and validity accorded to it by the said norms. The treaty cannot be modified or, much less, partially modified. Such a modification would mean a new treaty, which would have to be resolved by the National Congress at the nation's next institutional stage."

Replying to reporters' questions, Dr Sabate Lichtschein said that the Argentine Government should issue a statement now making it clear to Chile that with the extinction of the 1972 treaty the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice is also extinguished and that bilateral negotiations must commence. Admiral Rojas interjected that such negotiations appear to him to be desirable and at the same time difficult "since we already know Chile's aspirations, dating from the last century."

To another question, he replied that England's interests coincide with Chile's and that if Chile possessed maritime areas extending toward the Atlantic, the British could easily come to an agreement with the Chileans to exploit the riches of the South Atlantic. He added that during the recent War of the Malvinas, the hostile Chilean attitude toward our country was manifested by the newspaper commentaries and the statements of government officials of that country. "This situation," he said, "warrants the attention of our political leaders who are going to inherit the defense of our territorial rights."

The Malvinas Setback

Asked whether the setback suffered in the Malvinas modified any aspects of the negotiations on the problem of borders with Chile, Admiral Rojas replied, "The war with Great Britain continues, in that we are being harassed by all the forces of the United Kingdom. This, of course, creates a crisis situation for the nation, but that crisis cannot in any way compel us to forgo territorial and maritime area rights with respect to controversy we have with Chile. Our nation found itself in far more perilous situations during its infancy as a nation. When San Martin organized the Army of the Andes, the Holy Alliance opposed the independence of the United Provinces of the South, but we nevertheless went ahead. The small but courageous Argentine fleet defeated the Spanish fleet and San Martin pressed forward. Adding his forces to those of General Bolivar approaching from the north, the independence of our American nations was won. And at that time, the United Provinces were much weaker than the Republic of Argentina is today."

Admiral Rojas concluded his remarks as follows: "The Anglo-Saxons say, 'Yours is what you occupy, even if you have stolen it.' The Spanish-Americans say, 'Yours is what belongs to you, even if it has been stolen from you.'"

REPORT OF SOVIET PLANES IN GRENADA ELICITS RESPONSES

Barbados Paper's Editorial

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Oct 82 p 4

[Text]

Grenada and the Maurice Bishop regime there have once more become the focus of attention with reports that the Soviet Union has been delivering sophisticated warplanes to the island. The "Washington Times" has said that a Grenadian exile group has claimed that a Soviet ship delivered about 10 Soviet MIG-23 jet aircraft to Grenada about three weeks ago.

It is to be noted that the "Washington Times" attributed the source of the news to the exile group and did not indicate that the report was the result of its own investigations. Secondly, exile groups might not be regarded as the most reliable of sources since they inevitably have an axe to grind. But to say all this does not mean that the claim should be dismissed out of hand. Instead, it is one that needs to be investigated and we have no doubt that with the existing intelligence systems in the region, it will not be difficult to verify whether or not Russia has given the Bishop regime jet warplanes.

We could hardly expect the Bishop regime to shout about receiving such military aid. It is the sort of thing that is best kept quiet for a while. But even so a time must come when the planes must take to the air if only for exercises not to mention that these days military secrets are seldom the best kept ones.

The big question, however, would be why the Russians would want to place MIG fighters at Bishop's disposal. An air strike force of 10 MIG is hardly one of the greatest in the world. And Grenada could hardly hope to impress its neighbours with fighter planes. At most the planes could be useful as a small backup force for more aircraft engaged in combat in some other place, such as Central America.

It might well be that the Russians could use Grenada as a point from which to send the aircraft to other regions in the Caribbean where it is known that the Russians are sympathetic to various leftwing causes now bearing arms. Other than that, ten MIGs in Grenada will only impress those Grenadians who believe that this number of planes will help to "defend the revolution" if needs be; or can be useful as an impressive display for a May Day parade.

United States sources have said that Washington is watching the arms buildup in Grenada with some concern. It is being seen as a move to intimidate Grenada's neighbours. The truth is that Maurice Bishop has been a let-down in so many respects that it is easy to believe that he could be a let-down in more serious matters such as that hinted at by Washington.

But we doubt if he sees himself as the Gaddafi of the Caribbean. Even if his regime regarded Russian MIGs as playthings they could hardly be so naive as to think that any arms buildup on their part would go unnoticed by the super power in the region, the United States. And whatever might be Russia's promise to help Grenada the two super powers are not likely to go into open war over certain "allies."

It will be noted for example, that the United States expressed great concern and even protests over the Russian presence in Afghanistan, but it has not shown any great desire to go to arms with Russia over the matter. By the same token, the Russians are not likely to invade the United States on behalf of Grenada if it came to that. In power

politics certain territories are dispensable and are useful only as a means of embarrassment for one's main opponent.

So that a Russian arms buildup in Grenada could only serve the purpose of making the United States more alert to developments in the region and will inevitably force those territories less bent on having heavy arsenals to turn more to the United States as their protector. Such a step must inevitably reduce any Russian influence in the region however loud Bishop and Castro continue to shout about their socialist causes. Russian arms in Grenada makes it easier for the United States to justify its policies in the region where the threat of communist aggression is a growing problem.

PRG Denial

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 20 Oct 82 p 3

[Text]

ST. GEORGES, Grenada, Tuesday, (CANA) — Grenada's leftist government today rejected claims that the Soviet Union had given it a fleet of fighter planes.

The claims, made by a Grenadian lawyer living in exile in the United States, were amusing and ridiculous, a government spokesman said.

Lawyer Michael Sylvester, head of an exile group opposed to the Grenada Government, told the Washington Times that the Soviet Union had recently shipped 10 Mig-23s to Grenada in crates.

Mr. Sylvester, who heads a group called the Grenada movement for freedom and democracy, also claimed that the Grenada Government planned to allow the Soviet Union to use the island, where a multi-million dollar in-

ternational airport is under construction for its "military game."

The spokesman for the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG), which took power by force of arms in 1979 and has close ties with Cuba, said there was a connection between Sylvester's allegations and "imperialists attempts at economic aggression and threats of direct mercenary invasion" of the small Caribbean island.

"This latest attack on the revolution is part of a general build-up to isolate the revolution and to eventually set the basis for a mercenary or direct invasion of our island," the spokesman said.

Mr. Sylvester was dubbed a "known madman and a liar."

The United States said last week that it could not confirm Grenada had received sophisticated warplanes.

But U.S. assistant secretary for human rights, Elliott Abrams, said his country would assist any Caribbean country which he felt threatened by the reported arms build-up in Grenada.

Mr. Abrams said: "We are watching the situation, as we are watching the influx of Soviet weaponry into Nicaragua, with a great deal of concern."

"In the case of Nicaragua, it has resulted in a great deal of interference in the affairs of nearby countries."

He told reporters during a telephone link-up between Washington and Barbados that there had been no complaints from Caribbean countries of being intimidated by Grenada.

He added: "We will certainly wish to assist any country which is trying to resist any efforts at intimidation."

CARICOM LEADER CALLS ORGANIZATION VITAL TO MEMBER STATES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

CARICOM's Secretary General, Dr. Kurliegh King, yesterday spelled out the importance of the regional grouping and said that the countries involved could not do without Caricom.

"It would be almost disastrous for us if by a wave of some wand Caricom cease to exist" Dr. King told a large gathering of the Barbados Chamber of Commerce at their monthly luncheon at the Hilton Hotel.

Dr. King, speaking about Caricom as a "self-help mechanism", said that according to statistics, about half of the manufacturing exports from the countries of the Caribbean community, were directed towards the countries of Caricom.

"In other words, half of the manufacturing activity in Caricom, is destined for Caricom markets" he said, and added that about half of the jobs in manufacturing are due to the Caricom relationship and this was an indication of the important

role which Caricom was playing.

Dr. King spoke of various aspects of the functions of Caricom, and added that "the regional grouping had grown in the last nine to ten years into an institution that is crucially important, not only for economic and business within the region, but for the entire life of all our community."

"I would like to say, having given the matter very, very careful thought, that right now, the Caricom countries cannot do without Caricom. It would be almost disastrous for us if by some wave of some wand Caricom cease to exist" he said.

Dr. King spoke of some of the non-economic areas in which Caricom has been working for the betterment of the region and how it affected the lives of the people.

Dr. King said that Caricom involved co-ordination of foreign policy, and although this might not be altogether important with respect to Barbados, without Caricom

Belize may not be independent today.

He noted that Belize was able to achieve its independence in the face of threatened invasion by Guatemala, largely because the Caricom member states as a group faced the international community and forced them into recognising Belize's right to independence.

Dr. King said he was convinced that Caricom was one of the most important mechanisms which have been evolved as countries in the Caribbean to help themselves.

He said that although Caricom was a self-help mechanism, it still needed help from outside, and he referred to the promise help within the context of the Caribbean Basic Initiative (CBI).

Dr. King said that Caricom is here to stay. "Even if we did not have a Heads of Government meeting, I have always been confident that Caricom is here to stay."

GUATEMALA TO PURCHASE BUTANE GAS FROM MEXICO

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Sep 82 p 4

[Interview with Alejandro Contreras, secretary of mines, hydrocarbons and nuclear energy; date and place not specified]

[Text] Alejandro Contreras, the secretary of mining, hydrocarbons and nuclear energy, said yesterday that with the propane gas which Guatemala will purchase from Mexico in a deal arranged between the two governments, our country will accomplish a saving in foreign exchange according to the audits currently being made.

He said that the contract signed between that secretariat and PEMEX (Mexican Petroleum) will go into effect on 1 October, providing a formal arrangement in which the supplier has committed itself to guarantee a normal and sustained supply of the gas.

"There is no commitment at present, and we depend solely on a supply that a third party tries to provide so long as it is to his best economic advantage. That is, there is no guarantee of any kind for the supply, and that was a cause for concern for this secretariat and the reason why it was decided to negotiate directly between government."

[Question] Does this mean then that any monopoly in the supply of propane, if it existed, is going to disappear?

[Answer] I would not like to talk about a monopoly and would rather let the public be the judge of that.

[Question] Specifically, what benefits will accrue to Guatemala in the government-to-government purchase of propane gas?

[Answer] There will be a saving in foreign exchange because in accordance with the audits we are performing, the price of a gallon will be lower than we are currently paying.

[Question] Stated more simply, what are you trying to accomplish with this operation?

[Answer] The procedure is going to be rather simple. What we are seeking is something similar to what we are doing with Texaco, that is, Venezuela and Mexico are selling petroleum to Guatemala, and our country gives it to Texaco to be refined. The refinery manufactures the products, sells them, collects and pays without the government touching even a cent. We plan to do the same thing with the propane gas, which means that the government will secure a guaranteed supply. A company will represent the government and will pay PEMEX through the Bank of Guatemala.

[Question] How are we going to make sure that the Mexicans do not pull a fast one, that is, that they do not end up giving us more butane than propane?

[Answer] The contract stipulates the proportion of these two products. But it is worth noting that the fact the government signed a purchase contract does not mean that we are going to be tied up. By no means. That is, if the product is not satisfactory, we can rescind the contract.

[Question] How many millions of quetzals are involved in the purchase of the propane gas?

[Answer] Guatemala pays between \$10 million and \$13 million annually for that purchase. The daily gas consumption is 60,000 gallons.

[Question] Thus, will there be any reduction in those outlays from the standpoint that the product will turn out to be less expensive?

[Answer] In fact and in essence, we acknowledge that we are going to effect savings. For sure, what we have totally and absolutely ruled out is that there will be any rise in the price of gas.

[Question] Now well, how can we be sure that the consumer will really get his money's worth in the contents of each tank?

[Answer] That is a good question. As of 1 October 1982, the government will be in a better position to guarantee that what the consumer buys is actually the weight or the amount of gas stated on each tank, whether it is a 100-pound or a smaller size tank.

[Question] In other words?

[Answer] That the gas distributors will have to conform to the legal and regulatory measures in force in order that, at least, the user will be guaranteed that what he pays for is exactly what he ordered.

8414

CSO: 3248/83

BRIEFS

TRINIDAD LOAN TO ANTIGUA--St Johns, Antigua, Monday (CANA)--Antigua and Barbuda has received a loan of EC\$10.5 million from Trinidad and Tobago for a water supply project, minister in the Ministry of Economic Development, Energy and Tourism, Hugh Marshall has disclosed. The loan is part of a bilateral agreement between the two countries signed in 1979 and the funds will come out of a Caribbean aid fund initiated by former Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister, the late Dr Eric Williams. "It is one of our best loan sources in terms of speed and accessibility," Mr Marshall said. "The loan is at four percent interest with a moratorium in today's market, that is practically a grant. "Receiving this loan reaffirms my faith and confidence that the development of Caribbean countries lies more with their Third World partners that are a little wealthier than with traditional donors of the north." The loan will be used to supply pipes, fittings and hydrants for areas currently experiencing difficulty in getting water. Two 159 000-gallon reinforced concrete tanks will also be constructed. The project is expected to begin next January with the main contractors being the Trinidad and Tobago firm, Trinidad Pipeline Contractors Limited, with a local company, Arnold Mathew Associates, as project managers. Mr Marshall said the Trinidad and Tobago firm was given the contract because the local Public Utilities Authority said Antigua and Barbuda does not have the expertise. [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Oct 82 p 3]

CSO: 3298/071

EDITORIAL ON 'REPRESSIVE NATURE' OF SOVIET REGIME

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Sep 82 Sec 2 p 1

[Text] Mrs Yelena Bonner, wife of Nobel Prize winner, Andrei Sakharov, who was confined some years ago in a distant city hundreds of kilometers from Moscow, said that the group charged with watching over the fulfillment of the Helsinki Accords on the free exchange of people across national boundaries, freedom of the press and of thought, has dissolved itself.

The group, established 6 years ago, always functioned hounded by communist police which arrested its members one after another, accusing them of engaging in "activities contrary to the interests of the Soviet state."

At the time the decision was made to dissolve the group, Mrs Bonner said that only two of its members were free, although under strict vigilance and subject to detention at any moment. The latest of the victims, Sofia Kalistratova, age 75, called to the district attorney's office, accused of distributing "slandorous propaganda against the Soviet Union," was the episode that brought an end to the group.

The inexorable fate which befell many who made up the group, each of international renown for their work in the field of culture or science, extended their fame beyond the Soviet border. Thousands of articles won merited space in the Western press and the activities of the group were acknowledged in programs from "Radio Free Europe," broadcast from countries neighboring on the "iron curtain." Independent of the end of the group, once led by Andrei Sakharov, the harsh experience has served as testimony once again of the repressive nature of the Soviet regime.

Little is known about the fate of each one of the members of the group formed in 1976. Aside from the two exceptions cited above, all are in different jails or concentration camps. The regime has taken this indispensable precaution in order to stop those behind barbed wire from even attempting to reconstitute the group of heroic and now legendary conduct.

9908

CSO: 3348/40

CLOSER TECHNICAL, COMMERCIAL TIES WITH USSR FORESEEN

Buenos Aires CONVICCION in Spanish 6 Oct 82 p 17

[Text] The increase in Soviet participation in construction of hydroelectric energy plants is one of the results of the visit to the USSR by the Argentine delegation headed by Secretary of Commerce Alberto Fraguio.

However, this increase has not yet been limited in its technical aspects which ought to be studied in the second half of 1983 by the mixed Argentine-Soviet commission which will meet in Moscow.

In the energy field, the USSR supplied the generators in the Salto Grande hydroelectric plant and equipment for other thermoelectric plants in Buenos Aires and Bahia Blanca.

Moreover, the Soviets help Argentina in the nuclear energy sector and have expressed their interest in financing and equipping the Parana Medio complex.

The Argentine delegation, presided over by Fraguio is the most important that has come to the USSR since the Malvinas Islands war in which the Soviets upheld the Argentine position.

Also among the membership of the mission are energy secretary, Alberto Guadagni, and the Secretary of economy from Cordoba Province, Ruben Poncio. The interviews held include a wide range of high Soviet dignitaries from commerce and technical cooperation, among whom it is worth mentioning Aleksey N. Manzhulo, deputy minister of foreign trade, and the deputy minister of fisheries.

"On this occasion we analyzed," Secretary Fraguio said, "the present state of exchanges between the two countries and the future possibility of increasing them. Argentina is looking toward the USSR with much attention and interest as well as it should be for a nation that commands one-third of all our foreign commerce."

Fraguio said that Soviet-Argentine commercial exchange should run between 3.3 and 3.5 million dollars this year, supposing the same figures as for 1981.

Nevertheless, in the first 6 months of this year there was a significant reduction in Argentine exports to the USSR, mainly cereals and meat, which reached a total of \$1,167,000, 21 percent less than in the same period last year.

Placing meat on the Soviet market has also gone down.

Despite this, the Argentine side is optimistic about the future of commercial relations between the two countries and it considers this year's reduction is strictly in context and does not affect the long term economic basis that governs exchanges between Buenos Aires and Moscow.

Even though no great problems exist in Argentine-Soviet commerce, the USSR insists on increasing sales of its industrial products to Argentina to balance in part the large favorable commercial imbalance towards Buenos Aires.

In this sense, the Argentine delegation headed by Minister Garcia Martinez came to a prior agreement in Moscow in June of 1981 to buy \$50 million in industrial and transport materiel made in the USSR, which has been met only in part.

9908

CSO: 3348/41

IGLESIAS ROUCO WRITES ON LABOR ALLIANCES WITH REGIME

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Oct 82 pp 1, 6

[Commentary by J. Iglesias Rouco: "Misgivings About an Arrangement"]

[Text] The so-called "hardline" factions of the Peronist labor movement yesterday gave another demonstration of their relative ability to "rally the troops" and to thus lay a new groundwork for an "arrangement" with the regime that would unquestionably lead to an official union-military alliance, to the detriment of the parties or of those within them who are allegedly willing, perhaps for the first time in recent decades, to fight for democracy in Argentina.

Practically all political leaders whose ambition is independence from labor, including some Peronists, are observing with mounting misgivings these shows of strength by the unions, which in their view are being carried out not only with the "tolerance" but with the encouragement and even the collaboration of the regime as well. They are saying, for example, that Messrs Lorenzo Miguel and Ubaldini "arranged" yesterday's meeting in Atlanta Stadium with two top military officers a full month ago and that several interventors of the unions belonging to the CGT [General Labor Confederation]-Brasil made available to them all sorts of "functional" resources so that Miguel and Ubaldini (or the men on the Peronist board that they control) could become the virtual "masters" of Peronism's keynote event, which is what happened.

The "Mobilization" of the CGT-Azopardo

The parties are equally mistrustful of the "mobilization" that the CGT-Azopardo, headed by Mr Triaca, is readying for November, as well as the upcoming meeting that its four secretaries general will be having in a few days with the members of the so-called economic cabinet. They will be discussing a new wages, prices, industrial recovery and jobs policy, in other words, an entire economic program that will no doubt heighten the populist bent that the government has already given to the nation's economy. Party leaders feel that this offensive by the CGT-Azopardo in their own backyard indicates not that they are vying with their counterparts on Brasil Street but, on the contrary, that the three parties (the two CGT's and the government) are moving concurrently

and by joint agreement to take the initiative on the elections, lay the groundwork for an alliance and dictate to the parties. If we are to judge by the scant activity of the Multiparty Group in recent weeks, due both to the "infighting" among its members and the self-imposed silence of some factions in the face of a still very confused outlook for politics and government stability, then the labor leaders and the military officers supporting an alliance would seem to have achieved their goal. In any event, right now the momentum belongs to them, not to the professional politicians.

Election Date

If, as everything indicates, the date for elections is moved forward, then the prominence of the labor movement will condition the campaigns of the parties and, consequently, the content of the "institutionalization." First of all, the politicians will have very little time to maneuver, much less to do any rallying. Furthermore, many of them, especially the Peronists, need the funds that only the union machine or the government itself can provide them. Most party leaders (and labor leaders, who are far better informed than their predecessors) say that the military government has already decided, to this specific end, to have the elections held in mid-1983 or earlier. Their conclusion, therefore, is that this decision, along with the backing that the regime is offering the two CGT's, is "convincing proof" of the two fronts' desire for an alliance. But as if this were not enough, they have additional evidence. Here are some of the most significant pieces:

1) The heads of the CGT-Brasil and the CGT-Azopardo alike have hinted in their talks with the military and the leaders of the Peronist board that they are favorably disposed to the idea not only of a "compromise" president but of a retired officer as president.

Union "Unity"

2) Triaca's and Lorenzo Miguel's groups have reportedly already agreed on the basic points for future union "unity" or the formation of a single worker confederation. The single CGT would be formed around the current leadership on Azopardo Street, while Lorenzo Miguel would retain control of the 62 organizations, which would become the "political" arm of the entire labor movement or, if you prefer, the tool for guiding and controlling organized labor (in other words, the union-military alliance), over and above Peronism and other parties. This "unity" would take shape in 1983, after the CGT-Brasil secures complete control over the Peronist movement's political area and the CGT-Azopardo over union funds.

3) The military government and Mr Villaveiran have reportedly already given their approval to the formation of the joint commissions (government-union) that are to draft the regulations for the social benefits law and prepare the way for the "normalization" of the intervened unions.

Alsogaray and Massera

4) Mr Carrasco's most recent statements opposing Mr Alsogaray's and Admiral Massera's joining the "multisector group" that has been created within the Multiparty Group, point to the elimination of two political factors that for various reasons have hampered such as alliance. For many years now Mr Alsogaray has been one of the main figures in the hardline opposition to any sort of coalition, particular in the case of Peronism, and Massera, who has had ties with some Peronist groups (he even spoke with Mr Lorenzo Miguel some time ago), is openly at odds with many military leaders, some of whom are disposed to an alliance today (his differences with them are not exactly for this reason, though). Mr Carrasco, in turn, agrees with Miguel's suggestions, in other words, the planned alliance.

5) Finally, the new joint political commission tends to cut back the government's role in the "institutionalization" process. To be more exact, it tends to channel the process in accordance with the interests of one of the two partners in the potential alliance, not in accordance with the interests of the political team working with the military officers in the government proper, which has more links with the parties than with the unions. To put it another way, the parties see the commission as an attempt not to leave a matter so important for their plans up to outsiders.

The Episcopal Conference

The political leaders' misgivings thus seem reasonable, and in any event they are hampering an "arrangement" inasmuch as even though an attempt is being made to base such a pact on a union-military understanding, the formal channel for any "arrangement" is necessarily the parties. This is causing the parties to take an increasingly hard line and, moreover, is driving away the groups that believed in good faith until just recently that they could perhaps serve as rallying forces for the true political compact that the nation needs. This is the case, for example, with many members of the episcopal conference who in July and August listened with interest to the proposal of several bishops that the episcopate be the one to call for a national compact and who are presently not concealing their reluctance to take that step.

8743

CSO: 3348/61

POLITICAL LEADERS URGED TO AGREE ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 22 Oct 82 p 14

[Commentary by Arturo Frondizi: "What Is It That We Have To Agree On?"]

[Text] Various circles are talking about an arrangement. At this stage of the crisis and given the government's responsibility for it, I do not think that it has any authority to dictate the issues that need to be discussed, the issues that go beyond the agreement that we have to hammer out to rebuild the country or even the substance of what has to be arranged.

This understanding (or arrangement, if you wish, though words like this have negative connotations) cannot concern minor or circumstantial matters. The task before us is to confront once and for all and head-on the grave difficulties that we are beset by.

Although the public recognizes the magnitude of the crisis, not all of our leaders are as yet thoroughly aware of it. Electioneering tends to put in the background that which is actually at the forefront of Argentina's problems today. Only certain aspects of the crisis are played up, to win over voters, but regrettably a joint decision has not been made to call for and secure an in-depth political change as the hub of the political struggle.

We have to agree on the issue of a platform, in other words, the plan that the government must pursue, but as of right now, not 1984, so that the government that is elected at the ballot box can continue it. The need to immediately implement a program substantially different from the one in force since 1976 does not, of course, mean postponing the elections; on the contrary, this is a path towards elections that will enable us to begin a period of rebuilding that will end the period of destruction that we have been in. The elections must be held as soon as possible, because this government does not possess the legitimacy to perpetuate the process or to pursue for another year and a half the economic and social model that has caused such serious damage.

This issue of a platform, which is the key to resolving the nation's problems and stabilizing a democracy, cannot, as things now stand, be

approached in either of the following two ways. As I said before, the government cannot impose or press for a given arrangement. That is unacceptable. Not very promising either, however, are the suggestions that the leaders of the various sectors sign agreements that include certain points that the future civilian government must carry out.

I want to stress the fragility of such agreements (which, moreover, have already been signed) when the difficulties that are so foreseeable during a national crisis arise. We need something more concrete in the way of a consensus program, something realistic and not soon to be disregarded.

The key to success in a program for in-depth change in Argentina is the striving of all sectors to force through such a program and spur it on. There is a profound democratic substance to the social struggles for higher wages, more job opportunities and all of the workers' basic grievances. In the same way, democracy is helped when businessmen defend their output, oppose decontrol and call for a strengthening of the domestic market. The same goes for the demands of professionals, students, intellectuals and the various other segments of Argentine society. And of course our political parties, as our primary representatives, ought to take up all of these grievances and echo these anguished concerns and unmet needs. In this way, independent of any documents that might be signed, a solid and deep-seated unity will develop.

A good textbook with prescriptions for tackling the various issues is thus not enough. We need a collective will that does not yield until such a program becomes fact.

This program and the struggle to force it through are the guaranty of democracy. I have devoted my life to the struggle for democracy, and this is the conclusion that I have reached and that my party is proposing. This is what we have to agree to discuss, and all social and political leaders are ready for it.

All leaders, without exception, have a responsibility to agree on what the basic issues are and to spur discussion of them. I have no doubt that these basic issues include the need to clarify the status of missing and detained persons, to explain what happened in the Falklands and to modify the current economic and social model, which requires straightening out the economy, restoring the buying power of wages, taking care of business liabilities, mobilizing our resources, rebuilding our production machine and, at the same time, reducing the deficit and scaling back the public sector.

8743

CSO: 3348/61

BRIEFS

MOYA'S TRIP TO LIBYA--Buenos Aires, 21 Sep (NA)--According to accredited sources, Rear Adm Benito Moya, former head of the Military Guard, returned from Libya yesterday where he carried out a confidential official mission. The reason for the naval leader's visit could not be determined, but that it was linked to providing military equipment by that Arab nation can be disregarded. Rear Adm Moya traveled to Libya during the Malvinas War and coordinated the delivery of war materiel furnished by Colonel Qadhdhafi's government. At that time, five flights of especially conditioned Boeing aircraft from Argentine Airlines were made. Apparently, provided that no official report was furnished, the Libyan Government provided equipment or armaments--it is said that the delivery included Exocet missiles--without any conditions and did not accept payment that Argentina was ready to specify. Rear Adm Moya had received a request from President Bignone last week to go to Libya with secret instructions. The former chief of the Military Guard for the presidency of the nation--he carried out functions for Lieutenant General Galtieri--had asked that they give him written orders to travel and he accepted after consulting with the command in his branch. According to sources within the Office of the President, Rear Adm Moya had left for Tripoli from whence he returned yesterday. In a few more days he will assume the naval aviation command at the Comandante Espora base. [Bahia Blanca LA NUEVA PROVINCIA in Spanish 22 Sep 82 p 5] 9908

CSO: 3348/40

PINDLING LASHES OUT AT FNM 'UNDERGROUND CAMPAIGN' TRICKS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Oct 82 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

THE OFFICIAL opposition Free National Movement was accused in the House of Assembly Monday of engaging in an underground campaign of "psychological bombardment" of the ruling Progressive Liberal Party.

In his address on the Speech from the Throne, Prime Minister Lynden Pindling produced a copy of a magistrate's deposition in which one Humphrey Dottin of Bimini was charged with distributing a lewd cartoon of the Prime Minister.

Bimini MP George Weech told the House that Dottin was a general of defeated FNM Bimini candidate Jeff Davis.

Mr Pindling said that he saw the leaflet which was sent to him in technicolour, in his constituency of Kemps Bay, Andros, and brought it up at a public meeting there.

He said that Dottin was arrested and charged with the distribution of the lewd cartoon which the FNM condemned in a press statement, and police investigations found that Dottin was distributing them for the FNM.

He then handed a copy of the magistrate's deposition to FNM Member of Parliament for Montagu, who was present in the House at the time.

Mr Pindling said that in the United States "they call this dirty tricks," and said that "we are getting tired of this kind of dirty tricks."

He said that it destroys the necessary element of stability of the Bahamas and "those responsible for allowing such a thing to go on should be condemned."

Mr Pindling said that the PLP has been hit by a psychological bombardment by the underground campaign of the FNM.

"We are convinced we were being forced into an era of confrontation politics, but that was not my advice," the Prime Minister told the House.

He said that he told PLPs on Windsor Park during the University of Wulff Road on June 24 to strive to be happy and go placidly amid the noise and haste.

Mr Pindling read out to the House a prayer and other things written about him.

He also supported his party counterclaims of FNM victimization of PLPs

producing a letter of dismissal of a PLP signed by Mr Oswald Isaacs of the law firm of FNM Leader Kendal Isaacs.

He said that the Speech from the Throne was a plan for the development of the country over the next few years and did not seek to cure all ills but would address them.

He also criticized FNM Leader Kendal Isaacs' remarks on the support that the PLP had as "mathematical nonsense" and a fallacy not in numbers but an exaggerated confidence in the word "if."

He said that at a time when unemployment was rising to a significant degree, and inflation was adding to the cost of living, there was no government in this hemisphere that had survived an election other than Trinidad and Tobago which has an oil-based economy.

He said that not only was the PLP able to win an election, but won more votes than in 1977 and a greater percentage of the ballots cast than five years ago.

He said that with all of those adverse social factors, the government must be doing something right for 57 per cent of the people to give it another chance.

CONTROVERSY ERUPTS OVER GOVERNMENT PROGRAM IN GRANTS TOWN

'TRIBUNE' Charges

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Oct 82 pp 1, 7, 13

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Excerpts]

EXACTLY TWO years after Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna announced a \$20 million development plan for Grants Town, only one low cost apartment building has been constructed and several houses repaired.

Mr Hanna, also Minister of Finance, announced plans for the new four-year development scheme in a Communication to the House of Assembly on October 15, 1980.

He said the plan — the Grants Town Urban Improvement Programme — was part of the PLP Government's "Social Revolution." He also said that although government had already started improvements in the area, private financial institutions had been asked to help finance the scheme.

Mr Hanna said "abandonment, demolition and fires have created sites which have become dumping grounds for derelict cars," in the Grants Town area. To improve the 620 acres of Grants Town and its environs, Government needs \$20 million. Mr Hanna said Government expected private financial institutions to join the World Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank in helping with the project. In

a release from Washington it was stated that the World Bank-assisted project would cost \$24.4 million — not \$20 million.

However, today, some residents of Grants Town complain that repairs done to their homes for the sum of \$7,000 are not worth the money. Residents, who applied to have their homes repaired, say they are required to pay \$81.93 a month to the Royal Bank of Canada.

"I applied to them after Mr (Shadrach) Morris told me that I should. I had a bathroom installed, eight jalousie windows put in and the roof in the front room was fixed," said a Deveau Street resident. She said she is having difficulty meeting the monthly \$81.93 payments because she has no job.

"I wanted to have the doors and floor boards fixed too, but they told me that it couldn't be done because it would cost more money," she said, "but I am glad that I didn't because I am not pleased with the work that was done."

Earlier this year government applied to the World Bank for \$9 million towards the improvement programme. The application for this sum was refused. Instead government was allowed to borrow \$5.8

million from the bank for a term of 15 years with three years grace and annual interest of 11.6 percent. Tuesday Mr. Hanna won the approval of House members for this World Bank loan.

In May a two-storey apartment building - at a cost of \$85,000 - was completed on Brougham Street in Grants Town. It was officially opened by Prime Minister Pindling on May 20 - 3 weeks before the June 10 general elections. Mr Pindling presented the keys to four families who now occupy the four-unit building.

Another resident who had applied at the beginning of the year to have her home repaired said she is being given the "run-around" by the department.

"When I first applied the woman told me that they

would be ready for me in May of this year. When I went back to them they told me they would be ready for me in five weeks time. I waited until seven weeks passed and I went back. They told me they won't be ready for me until next year," she said.

She also complained that when she applied to the department to have the repairs done she was told she would have to make a "monthly payment of \$82. And they said because they were fighting to get rid of outside toilets I should put in a toilet."

The resident said because her house is so dilapidated she is willing to use her monthly \$80 pension cheque, to pay for the repairs.

Mr Jim Wood, the defeated FNM candidate in the recent Grants Town by-election, said Grants Town residents have

complained to him that they never see any of the money that they borrow for the repairs.

"They told me that they never see any of the money and they don't realize that they have to pay the money back. They are also complaining that the work being done in Grants Town is not worth the money the government has borrowed for the improvement scheme. Still government has borrowed more money and I understand they are about to make an application for additional money," Mr Wood said.

"If they had done what they promised the people they would do, Grants Town would have been transformed, yet only one apartment building has been constructed and a few houses got bathrooms. No major work has been done at all," Mr Wood said.

Government Denial

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 20 Oct 82 pp 1, 13

[Text]

THE MINISTRY of Housing today denied that Government had ever made an application to the World Bank for \$9 million "or any other amount that was refused."

On October 13 The Tribune reported that Government had applied to the World Bank for \$9 million towards the Grants Town Urban Improvement Project, but had been turned down for this sum. Instead Government was allowed to borrow \$5.8 million for a term of 15 years with three years grace and annual interest of 11.6 percent.

However, said the Ministry of Housing statement, "there were negotiations with the World Bank in October 1981 for an \$8.6 million loan to assist in funding the Grants Town Project. The World Bank required as a condition of the loan a floating interest rate for the loans to applicants for home repairs.

"As this floating rate would have been tied to the annual rate of inflation and the Central Bank's prime rate,

the rate to borrowers could never have been less than 11.6 per cent. The Government rejected this concept and, in order to charge only 10 per cent interest for home repair loans, decided to fund this part of the project by other means.

Approximately \$3,750,000 has been expended for the Grants Town Project to date."

In the House of Assembly October 11 Prime Minister Pindling received approval to borrow \$5.8 million for the Grants Town project and "other depressed areas of New Providence." He said the agreement to borrow the money was made at a recent meeting of the World Bank in Toronto, Canada, and "the work on the redevelopment of Grants Town could begin in earnest."

The Ministry of Housing also denied that only one low-cost apartment had been built under the scheme and that only a few buildings had been repaired or rehabilitated.

The Ministry said 12 apartments were completed for

families to rent. They are located in buildings on Brougham Street, McCullough Corner and Windsor Lane East. Twelve more apartments are under construction and "others will be constructed shortly." Now under construction are apartments on South Street and Windsor Lane West.

Also said the Ministry, 174 houses have been repaired under the loan rehabilitation programme with an additional 46 houses presently undergoing repair.

The Ministry said the Grants Town Urban Improvement Project was launched to "upgrade living and environmental conditions in an area bounded by Nassau Street, Wulff Road, Collins Wall and the top of the hill." The area is populated by about 23,000 persons who live in over 5,300 dwelling units. Over half of the project area's residents use outside toilets.

Details of the Ministry of Housing's plans for the area will be published in tomorrow's Tribune.

MP: DENY FUNDS TO BCB WHILE IT AIRS PLP PROPAGANDA

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 8 Oct 82 pp 1, 10

[Text]

CARMICHAEL MP Frank Watson demanded that public funds be withheld from the Broadcasting Corporation if it continues to be used by the Progressive Liberal Party for its propaganda purposes.

And, he renewed calls for the establishment of an independent radio and television station in the Bahamas.

He was making his maiden speech in the House of Assembly during debate on the Speech from the Throne and was pointing out how ZNS radio and television could lead the way in the development of Bahamian music, dance, art and craft.

"Instead, it (Broadcasting Corporation) is intent on keeping an insensitive government in power by misleading the population," Mr Watson said.

He pointed out that during the election campaign ZNS radio and television rarely covered Free National

Movement meetings, while every move made by the PLP was given extensive coverage.

"If the PLP wishes to use ZNS for its own propaganda," Mr Watson, "public funds must be withheld from this organisation. The PLP must pay, otherwise, the FNM will demand and the country will expect fair and impartial coverage of the news, leaving always the interpretation to the individual listener.

"The FNM Members of Parliament have a right to equal time on the air on all matters of national importance.

"If ZNS does not perform its duties impartially, an independent radio and television station is essential. Smaller less sophisticated societies than ours support more than one station. There is no justification for the government to deny the grant of a licence to a private company," Mr Watson said.

The proposals put forth by

the Government in the Speech from the Throne, Mr Watson said, "are but empty promises which will never be translated into action."

"Our young people are the victims of the mismanagement, misdirection and incompetence of a bungling government that has failed to come to grips with realities of our situation and to develop and implement a sound economic plan geared to satisfying the needs of our people," Mr Watson said.

Because of the Government's educational policy, he said, many young people find themselves outside the mainstream of the society.

"They have been denied the opportunity to equip themselves with the tools they need to function in a productive way in their society," Mr Watson said. "Nowhere has the cost to the country of mismanagement by the PLP been higher than in its effect on our human resources. Hundreds of young men and women have been wasted."

TOURISM SHOWS OVERALL 6 PERCENT RISE SO FAR IN 1982

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

THE LATEST tourist figures disclose that tourism in the Bahamas so far this year is up 6% with a 29.2% increase last month, over the same period last year.

However, tourist arrivals to New Providence are still down - 5.1% the figures for Grand Bahama are up 32% because of an increase in sea arrivals to that island. Arrivals in other family islands are about the same as before with Cape Eleuthera showing a decrease of 51%, while Exuma's figures have increased by 148.2%.

There was a turn-around in tourist figures for the month of September, with all sectors showing an increase in air and sea arrivals. Air arrivals were up 81.2%, and sea arrivals 15.9%.

These latest statistics were provided by the Immigration Department and are the result of a head count of all foreign visitors and transit arrivals to the Bahamas, excluding ship crews, diplomatic personnel and returning residents.

The statistics have not taken

into account multiple entries made by the same visitors at different ports in the Bahamas and do not necessarily indicate the place of stay of visitors.

Tourism Minister, Perry Christie, during his address to the House of Assembly, said the Bahamas closed 1981 with 1.8 million tourists, but because of fluctuations in the international market, he did not know if that figure would be exceeded.

Mr Christie assured Opposition members in the House of Assembly and the country that the government had made correct decisions, adopted the correct strategies in promoting tourism, and was flexible in its tourism policy. He looked to them for their support.

He said massive promotions would be carried out, including the Bahamahost programmes.

"No doubt, all the right steps are being made," he assured the House of Assembly at yesterday's meeting.

BATELCO DISPUTES UNION CHARGES, DEFENDS ITS SERVICE

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 8 Oct 82 pp 1, 10

[Text]

BAHAMAS Telecommunications Corporation management has denied the communication union's accusation that the Corporation has assigned "overtime work to a selected handful of non-union supporters."

In a release issued by General Manager, Robert Bartlett, it was stated that although the Corporation did not wish to engage in a "protracted public debate" with the union, it was necessary to "correct certain inaccuracies and to avoid the public from being misinformed."

Mr Bartlett referred to statements, published in the two daily newspapers, and made by the BCPOU accusing the Corporation of assigning overtime work to non-union members who are "not competent to deal with the high incidence of cable faults."

"The Corporation wishes to make it clear that when overtime work is scheduled, those employees who are most capable of doing the job in the shortest time, are considered," Mr Bartlett said.

"Overtime on weekends is paid at double time and the Corporation expects to obtain maximum productivity for the premium rate paid. At no time," said Mr Bartlett, "is an employee discriminated against because of his or her union affiliation. However, if the more productive workers are non-union members, it should behove the union to stress productivity to its supporters," he said.

Mr Bartlett also referred to union statements in which it was claimed that middle management is receiving back pay on overtime work and questioned the size of the increases to be given management staff.

The statements were made in an article appearing in The Tribune on September 30 under the heading "Union Relations at Batelco worsen" and in the Guardian on October 1, under the heading "Mid-Management benefits annoy Batelco's Union."

Although Mr Bartlett said it would not "be proper" for the Corporation to comment on these statements, because an agreement had not yet been signed with the management union, he said it appears from the general tone and content of the articles, that the union is annoyed because the management staff may receive higher increases than those received by the Bargaining Unit of the BCPOU.

"The Corporation wishes to remind the BCPOU that it is a generally accepted practice for managers to receive higher pay than the employees they manage," Mr Bartlett said. "It therefore follows that the dollar value of any salary increases would be greater for the manager. Even within the Bargaining Unit of the BCPOU, employees in the higher salary scales receive higher increases than those in the lower scales."

Mr Bartlett also said that certain statistics published in an article in the morning paper on October 7, "BCPOU blames

staff shortage for poor telephone service," and in The Tribune on October 6, "Why Phone service is bad - Union," "are far from correct and would only serve to mislead the public."

In the articles, the union charged that the telephone problems were caused because Batelco has "greatly increased the number of lines to telephone subscribers since 1960, but has reduced the number of maintenance personnel." The union said that the number of telephone lines have increased to 58,010, but the number of maintenance personnel has been cut to 26.

However, Mr Bartlett said that the facts show that there are 22,900 telephone lines in service in New Providence, with a telephone maintenance staff of 102 persons assigned to outside plant and subscribers equipment.

"The recruitment of additional staff is an on-going exercise and just last week 13 new trainee technicians were taken on," Mr Bartlett said. "An executive on the BCPOU was present at the orientation of the new trainees."

Mr Bartlett also said that comments such as "those attributed to the BCPOU, and appearing in recent articles, can only serve to mislead and poison the minds of certain employees resulting in poor attitudes and low productivity."

"The Corporation does not wish to engage in any protracted public debate with the union," Mr Bartlett said, "but feels that it must set the record straight on certain issues which have arisen."

He said BCPOU has recently negotiated a "handsome contract" at a total of about \$10.5 million and that it is only fair that the Corporation as well as the public deserve "some degree of increased productivity in return. This cannot be achieved through the negative attitudes displayed in articles which continue to appear in public print," Mr Bartlett said.

He said management of the Corporation has "extended its hand" to the BCPOU and it was hoped that union members would turn their efforts towards fostering goodwill and building up the organization.

CSO: 3298/067

BRIEFS

LOAN FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT--Part of the \$5.8 million loan to the Government by the World Bank will help improve other depressed areas of New Providence, Prime Minister Lynden Pindling said Monday. Moving the resolution seeking approval of the loan, the Prime Minister said the money for the Grants Town Urban Development Project will also redevelop the area from within. He said that the agreement to borrow the \$5,800,000 was made at a recent meeting of the World Bank in Toronto, Canada, and the work on the redevelopment of Grants Town could begin in earnest. Official opposition Free National Movement Leader Kendal Isaacs said the Opposition supported the loan for a worthwhile project which should have been started a long time ago. However, he cautioned the government against borrowing saying that although recent history had shown that banks are ready to lend, some countries are not ready to borrow. He also referred to the Central Bank's annual report and statement of account for 1981 which has projected the 1982 deficit to be \$64.6 million. Housing Minister Hubert Ingraham said that the interest rate charged on the loan by the World Bank is 11 and 3/4 percent. [Text] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Oct 82 p 7]

CSO: 3298/67

OPPOSITION CALLS FOR DETAILS OF GOVERNMENT LINKS WITH IMF

Haynes Statement

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 20 Oct 82 p 32

[Text]

OPPOSITION Democratic Labour Party (DLP) MP, Dr. Richard Haynes, yesterday called on Prime Minister Tom Adams to spell out details of Barbados' arrangements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In a prepared press statement, Haynes, Shadow Minister of Finance and Planning in Parliament, said that conflicting newspaper statements about the IMF and its relationship with Barbados had created much public anxiety.

"I am fully aware of all the discussions with the International Monetary Fund which have been taking place since September last year, but it is the duty of the Minister of Finance to spell out all the details of any arrangement with the IMF to the nation.

"The Prime Minister must also be aware, that given the delicate variables identified by the World Bank, which could affect the credit-worthiness of this country, it is of paramount importance that a detailed and accurate statement should be issued by him," said Haynes.

Haynes listed a number of IMF-determined policy options which Government has been pursuing since last year.

These included what he described as "a severe reduction in the availability of money through a combination of wage restraint; a stranglehold on credit; high interest rates; maintenance of high reserve requirements of banks and non-interference with prices".

He also touched on the curtailment of Government spending through lay-offs in the public sector, a cut-back in all social services and subsidies, and what Haynes termed "a determined effort to maximise its taxation effort in every area".

He added that having already drawn down its Reserve Tranche with the IMF, Government must be entering into the usual areas of conditionality, if the size of the loan was correctly reported in relation to its quota of "special drawing rights".

Said Haynes: "I am calling on the Minister of Finance to make a full and comprehensive statement to Parliament."

Taitt Charges

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

President of the Opposition Democratic Labour Party, Branford Taitt, MP, has said that Barbadians of all walks of life are discovering that perceived economic and social reality is differing substantially from what the Government is saying.

Mr. Taitt added that it was incredible that Government continues to utter words and phrases calculated to disarm the population.

The Opposition MP was yesterday reacting to a statement published in Saturday's Advocate-News that the International Monetary Fund "concluded that the island's current difficulties were largely the result of external factors."

Mr. Taitt said that such was unacceptable.

He said that it was certainly at variance with another published statement by the World Bank which conclusively demonstrates that faulty public finance management led to a sharp deterioration in the financial performance of the public sector in Barbados during 1981-82.

Mr. Taitt said that according to that report, "this can partly be explained by the revenue measures taken in the 1981-82 budget, which resulted in a large fall in revenue in real terms."

The St. Michael West MP said that no amount of euphemism can explain why the fact that Barbados is now in the hands of the IMF, and the fact that the Government took the IMF-recommended measures before applying for

the assistance does not soften the blow of the result to the thousands of Barbadians who are daily unable to find employment, while their brothers and sisters continue to lose those jobs which they thought they had.

Taitt added: "What this country needs at the moment is a high degree of candour from its political leadership. There is no justification for continuing to hide the real economic plight of the country, because Barbadians of all walks of life are discovering that perceived economic and social reality is differing substantially from what the Government is saying. That is a primary reason why no one believes anything which the government says anymore.

"One may be able to excuse silence on the part of the Government on such matters as the real state of the tourist industry, but no one can accept any attempts to lull the community into a false sense of security. There is a deeper and more dangerous effect of such tactics. The psychological battering from which Barbadians are now suffering will, if we are not careful, make them unable or at least unwilling to respond positively if and when the time comes for a movement forward.

"I am profoundly disturbed by this continued trend towards confusion and systematic misinformation. Since 1980, economic growth in Barbados has been stunted. Were it not for a bumper sugar

crop and high sugar prices, our current account deficit would have been even more devastating. Yet, as is now evident from the published figures, the Government held back capital expenditure until 1980-81.

It is obvious that projects were bunched as an influence on the then upcoming elections. This factor, alone, in the words of the World Bank "is a most important determinant of the overall public sector deficit, and its gradual increase over the last three years of the period goes a long way towards explaining the increasing overall deficit."

"External forces must have some effect on what happens in Barbados for we are part of the world community. But they are only the icing on the cake. The Government must take its full share of the responsibility for our present ills.

"It is incredible that, despite the economic and social pressure under which this country is reeling, the Government continues to utter words and phrases calculated, apparently, to disarm the population. No right thinking person in public life could sit idly by and allow them to do this with impunity.

"Especially at this time, it is essential that the population be able to retain some measure of trust in all those in various leadership positions in our country. Most particularly, our people need to be able to believe their Government," he concluded.

RIFT IN UNION FOLLOWS STRIKES OVER SALARY ROW WITH GOVERNMENT

Turmoil in NUPW

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 21 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

TWENTY-FOUR hours after the National Union of Public Workers sought a showdown with Government through a one-day strike, the union itself is in turmoil.

There are reports of a rift in the leadership of the union over its tactics in fighting government over the legislating of public service salary increases, and some sections of the membership are calling for resignations from union executives.

Tuesday's one-day strike was a virtual flop for the NUPW while the other striking union, the Barbados Union of Teachers, reported good response.

The refusal of the first vice-president of the NUPW, Colton Bennett, to participate in Tuesday's industrial action has brought to the fore the difference of opinion within the union's leadership.

Members of the union are now calling for the removal of some members of the executive. Members from six departments of Government yesterday called for these resignations. Of these six, it is understood that three are the Treasury, the Auditor General's office and the Registration Department.

No other departments were identified, but personnel from the Parcel Post section of the General Post Office have been in touch with the NUPW expressing concern over the ineffectiveness of Tuesday's protest strike.

More problems for the NUPW arose in the Sanitation Department yesterday when the one crew which worked on Tuesday found that others were not working with them. President Joe Goddard was called in and promised a compromise solution if they resumed co-operation. The crew which worked on Tuesday may be transferred from the Bridgetown depot to Wilkey.

Meanwhile, shop steward courses are being suspended by the NUPW until its internal disputes are resolved.

General Secretary Joseph Goddard, yesterday said the union now had to work at rebuilding its fighting spirit.

Goddard said: "It is clear that some of the officers only want a social club and a place of cheap medical insurance.

"The sooner these submit their resignations, the sooner we can start the job of rebuilding."

The General Secretary was full of praise for the sanitation workers in their strong stance on Tuesday.

The union said yesterday that although areas such as the Air Traffic Control and the Meteorological Office functioned with three or four workers, had the strike been prolonged rebellious workers would not have been able to continue.

Goddard said prior to the strike they were confident they could have recorded at least 80 percent support.

Failure of NUPW Strike

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 20 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

THE one-day strike yesterday by the National Union of Public Workers turned out to be just short of total failure.

Investigations revealed that council members, shop stewards and counsellors turned up for work as usual yesterday morning, defying their union's call.

A check revealed that NUPW first vice-president, Colton Bennette, was on duty at the Psychiatric Hospital in Black Rock, and when contacted said: "We all have our views."

He noted that there had been a very good turn-out of workers at the hospital, and a spot-check revealed that only a few persons were not at work.

General Secretary of the NUPW, Joseph Goddard, when contacted declined to give a comment. Another official, however, speculated that failure of the union was the result of taking action at a late date.

At the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), indications were that that institution had hardly been affected by the action, with most departments recording full turnout of staff.

It was reported that the dispensary had its full complement of workers, although another report stated that the radiology department had been affected.

Hospital workers told THE NATION that they were willing to take action earlier, but the union had waited too long and had therefore lost much of its support.

A senior official at the Barbados Water Authority (BWA), noted that although they had been affected slightly, they still managed to function comfortably.

Chief Immigration Officer,

Kenrick Hutson, said there had been a skeleton staff on duty, and with these six persons they were working a rostered system. He added that a normal shift was between 12 and 14 officers.

Although Customs officials refused to say how they were affected, a spot-check at the airport showed that only one uniformed officer was on duty at 2 p.m.

Security guards at the airport were out in full force, but reports said there had been a quarrel earlier in the day when one guard was accused of encouraging others to take action.

The guards said that one of the reasons why they did not take ac-

tion was that they had been very little communication from the union.

Flights arrived and departed at the airport yesterday with little interference, as air traffic controllers on whom the NUPW was strongly banking for support, were believed to be out in full force.

The strongest support for the NUPW came from the Sanitation Department, where it was noted that only one refuse collection truck was on the road.

Union official said that other workers in this department have vowed not to work today with the crew that was on duty yesterday.

Teachers' Response

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 20 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

THE one-day strike by primary and newer secondary school teachers yesterday, turned out to be a success with the Barbados Union of Teachers (BUT), recording 75 per cent support.

BUT's president, Victor Hutchinson, said in an interview that they were satisfied with the response of the teachers in their protest action against Government's legislating of salaries,

and noted that there was strong support from schools which were not traditional strong-holds.

"The teachers in the island's newer secondary and primary schools responded well to the union's strike-call," the BUT president told THE NATION, "although there were some pockets of resistance."

According to the Barbados Union of Teachers, St. Margaret's Primary, St. Anne's Primary, Hothersal Primary, Mount Tabor and the new St. George Primary, were all closed. A Government source pointed

out that the new St. George Primary which was opened at the start of the present term, was only opened yesterday after an official from the Ministry of Education turned up at the school. The head teacher did not report for classes, according to reports.

Schools where support was not very good were Princess Margaret Secondary, St. Leonard's Boys', St. George Secondary, Boscobelle Girls', St. Silas Primary, Chalky Mount Primary and the School for the Deaf.

BUT officials pointed out that checks by them revealed that members had not received adequate communication and noted that this was one area in which they hoped there would be some improvements.

Parkinson Secondary School, the place of employment of the

BUT president, was one of the secondary schools hardest hit by the action, with some 42 teachers out of 50 registered with the union absent.

At Ellerslie in Black Rock, BUT officials noted that in a school which has traditionally not been one of their strongholds, 46 teachers out of a union membership of 50-odd persons did not report for work.

The Garrison Secondary, Springer Memorial Secondary and St. James Secondary all registered good support for the union, and Hutchinson noted that the support had improved over that given during the first phase of industrial action, when teachers stayed away from school for half the day in order to attend a planning meeting.

Although a number of children stayed away from school, attendance generally was good.

BUT Threat

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 20 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

FOLLOWING the success of its industrial action yesterday, the Barbados Union of Teachers (BUT) has warned Government that action would be intensified if a compromise is not found.

In making the disclosure yesterday, BUT president, Victor Hutchinson bluntly told the Government that the ball was now in its court.

Hutchinson noted: "The next step is completely in the hands of the Government. We are willing to respond to a compromise. In the absence of this, action will be extended by the union."

The BUT head said that they had received support from the St. Lucia Teachers Union and also thanked the West Indies Group of University Teachers (WIGUT) for its support.

The next move of the BUT will be to hold a strategy planning meeting for shop stewards later this week.

Call for Civil Service Study

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 20 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

Two Government MPs yesterday called on Government to seriously examine the Civil Service in Barbados. They were Attorney-General Mr. Louis Tull and backbencher Mr. Lindsay Bolden.

The call which came in the House of Assembly coincided with strike action taken by civil servants yesterday in response to a call for a general strike by their trade union, the National Union of Public Workers.

The House was debating a Resolution to grant a supplementary vote of \$550 000 to provide for the payment of wages and salaries to temporary staff working in the service.

Mr. Bolden in a fiery contribution said that it was only recently that he understood what former Prime Minister Mr. Errol Barrow meant when he dubbed the civil service "an army of occupation".

He said that Government Ministers had no control over staff employed in the service and he was heavy in his criticism of the Public Service Commission and trade unions representing the workers.

Mr. Bolden argued that the structure of the Civil Service today dated back from the time of the Opposition Democratic Labour Party and he said that it was so entrenched that it would take a very progressive political

party and trade union to work out all the problems.

The former Government Minister noted that it would be futile for anyone to criticise the system of employing temporary officers in the service until the entire structure of the service including disciplinary procedures and administration was looked into.

The Government MP referred to established officers in the service taking as much as six-months sick leave and of the frustration of having temporary officers brought in and then not being sure when their temporary stint will end or when the established officers will be returning.

He contended that the cost of temporary staff to the service could not be easily projected as long as the indiscipline now existing within the service continued and established officers could go on leave for as long as they wished.

In respect of increases in civil servants' salaries, Mr. Bolden said that there were many civil servants who did not want more than a certain increase because they were pushed into a different tax bracket and received less money in their pockets.

Attorney-General Mr. Louis Tull also contributed and he said that if Government had made any errors in relation to the Civil Service it was to follow too closely on what had obtained in the DLP Administration.

He said that there were problems in the service which would have to be seriously addressed if there was to be any order.

He noted that there was still a high percentage of people working in the service who had held temporary appointments for up to 14 years and, he said, that this was particularly true of the teaching service where many people found it difficult to get beyond the status of temporary employee.

Mr. Tull described as "iniquitous" the system in the service where people could be laid off with one hour's notice.

And he also referred to the situation which developed on a day such as yesterday when strike action was called and the service was immediately divided into "them" and "us" — "us" being the established employees who could afford to stay home and not be dismissed and "them" being the temporary employees who were afraid to stay off the job, not knowing what would happen the next day.

The Minister also spoke out against the practice of training people to do specific jobs in the Public Service and then assigning them to do jobs for which they had not been trained.

He noted, however, that while the Opposition DLP would have the public believe that Government had laid off all temporary employees in the service, the fact that Government was asking for this money clearly showed that this was untrue.

University Teachers' Position

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

The West Indies Group of University Teachers (WIGUT) at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies yesterday threw its support behind today's planned one-day strike by two of Barbados' public sector unions.

The action by the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) and the Barbados Union of Teachers (BUT) is a protest against Government's legislation of salaries for public workers over the next two years.

WIGUT said "...the refusal of the Government to meet with those unions must be condemned. Likewise to be rejected is the Government's concentrating instead on the unfortunate tactics of dividing public workers' unions with a view to itself ruling them all.

"More fundamentally, a highest possible principle is at stake. The unilateral legislating of salaries is a high-handed one-sided ter-

minating of salary negotiation. This is a far cry from the mutuality that should inform salary negotiations between a trade union and an employer," WIGUT said.

WIGUT, a trade union representing lecturers, said that the unilateral legislating of salaries is a shameful negation of the good faith with which an employer should enter into negotiations with a trade union for the purpose of reaching a collective agreement with that union.

The union's statement noted that "the unilateral legislating of salaries is a direct attack on the system of free collective bargaining as we have come to know and cherish it."

This attack on free collective bargaining is also necessarily a gross assault on the dignity and the very existence of the trade union movement," the statement said.

The Barbados Government recently gave Public Servants

a \$25 a week across the board increase for two years.

Meanwhile, all Government primary and secondary schools will be opened tomorrow, as usual a senior official of the Ministry of Education has said.

The senior official according to the Government Information Service emphasised that the Ministry had never stated that schools would be closed if industrial action was taken by the Barbados Union of Teachers; nor had it made any statement that teachers would not be paid for any day or days that they went on strike.

He noted that the procedure for dealing with payment of Public Officers who go on strike was clearly spelt out in the Public Service General Orders — under Section 3-29, and all teachers and other Public Officers are expected to be aware of this provision of the General Order.

Government Warning to Strikers

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

Public Servants in Barbados have been warned of the consequences should they participate in Tuesday's planned industrial action by the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) and the Barbados Union of Teachers (BUT).

Circulars from the Government's Chief Establishment Officer have been sent to all Government Departments informing the workers among other things that if they do not report for work they will face disciplinary action.

In addition the circular said: "Salaries and wages of officers and employees who go on strike will not be paid for

any day or portion of a day during which they are on strike."

Furthermore it warned "officers...who fail to report to work will in the absence of satisfactory explanation be deemed to be in support of the strike and will not be eligible for pay from the date of commencement of the strike and until such time as they report for duties and commence to work."

The NUPW-BUT proposed action stems from the union's dissatisfaction with Government's wage offer which they have described as inadequate based on the run away cost of living in the island.

Taitt on Government Failings

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

Opposition MP Mr. Bradford Taitt has accused Government of having a disastrous personnel policy, which is second only to its financial policy.

Mr. Taitt's comments came in the House of Assembly on Tuesday during debate on a Resolution to provide \$550 000 for payment of temporary staff in the Civil Service.

He said that the personnel policy of Government has left the civil service demoralised since the system being used for personnel administration did not allow civil servants to know what part they played in policy formulation.

He said that the concept of hiring temporary staff on the basis of policies which neither those coming in nor those already in the service understood had resulted in a number of anomalies being introduced.

Mr. Taitt listed the reasons for employing temporary staff as if the task to be undertaken

is not a long term one; if established staff is going on leave and if established staff working in sensitive areas of the service are ill and the service cannot cover the void.

The Opposition MP said that Government did not understand the need for civil servants to have clearly defined career objectives and policies which could be understood by all.

And he also said that Government failed to appreciate and accept the norms and principles consistent within society on personnel administration.

Mr. Taitt suggested that Government's "slip was showing" and said that this confusion manifested itself in the fact that it should require a vote of \$550 000 to pay temporary staff when they could not give established staff more than \$25 million for two years. He said that this showed a fundamental weakness in the system.

CSO: 3298/072

EDITORIAL URGES CURBS ON UNBRIDLED FREE ENTERPRISE

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 19 Oct 82 p 4

[Text]

WE would be unwise and cruel to ourselves as a country, to ignore two pleadings made during last week. They both related to the tourist industry in general and the hotel industry in particular.

On Wednesday, Mr. Alfred Taylor, president of the Barbados Hotel Association called on the Government to regulate and control future building of hotels here.

On Friday, the Barbados Workers Union issued a Press statement to the effect that wild and unplanned hotel industry was not in the best interest of the economic forces of Barbados. The statement added: "The union feels that unplanned private enterprise is not competitive, but produces a debilitating effect on the total economy of small communities. This is particularly true of industries that seek aid from the national purse".

Taken together, these two statements tell us that a halt should be put to the building of hotels and that private initiative in this area should be subject to control and direction at a national level.

The horse is perhaps out of the stable and pretty exhausted by now, we feel. The admonishment is, however, in our interest.

The union's point about the competitive spirit in free enterprise being taken too far, is valid. Countries with more secure economic strength and greater resilience can perhaps afford great adventurism in private enterprise.

Not so with small, developing countries, with fragile economies.

The wastage of energy and resources through a system of completely unbridled free enterprises, can destroy the very purpose of the competitive system.

We have perhaps reached that stage in some aspects of the tourist industry, and the economic planners should now be stepping in with directions for the good of all.

TRINIDAD SAID TO BLACKEN BARBADOS AS TOURIST ATTRACTION

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 20 Oct 82 p 4

[Article by Al Gilkes]

[Text]

I HAVE heard it said that the authorities in Barbados are investigating what they have accepted as fairly reliable information relating to a plot to destroy Barbados — not by the sword but by the pen.

I have also heard it said that the authorities believe this plot to have been hatched in a neighbouring island, whose Government is known to have been persistently hostile to the Tom Adams administration.

The authorities here, I have heard it said, are convinced that those reportedly responsible for this conspiracy have settled for a simple yet most effective way to destroy Barbados.

They had set out to discredit Barbados as a tourist destination by having most unfavourable words printed continuously in sections of the media, which prefer to wallow in gutter journalism than to uphold the principles which most publishers hold so dearly.

Other methods are also said to have been adopted by the conspirators in spreading the bad words about our Barbados.

When I first heard about this suspected plot, I took it with a grain of salt; that was until last weekend when, within minutes of each other, I read two reports which have forced me to reshape my thoughts on the matter and now be inclined to believe that there could indeed be some fire where the authorities are pointing to smoke.

The first shock to my thoughts came while reading our own Tom Clarke's account, in last Friday's PELICAN of a pamphlet being handed out to would-be tourists in Washington, DC, and which list in detail some ten reasons why people should not come to Barbados.

These include the allegation that West coast hotels are the highest priced in the Caribbean; that food prices are astronomical; that service in hotels are very slow; that the United States Embassy is warning American visitors about increased thefts and muggings; that the Barbados law does not conform to the usual international standards; that in the area of incest the Barbados law is absolutely primitive and that male prostitution is a flagrant way of life.

The second shock came as soon as I had finished re-reading this

serious indictment of our tourist plant and picked up a copy of the *TNT Mirror*, a Trinidadian publication.

I had secured a copy of this newspaper after almost non-stop calls in which persons, known and unknown, were asking if I had read what "Sleepy" had written in the *Mirror*.

In Barbados "Sleepy" refers to one and only one person and indeed on page 25 of the *Mirror*, devoted to "Mirror Mail From Barbados" with a six-column headline, "We Have Corruption too", there was a long letter signed by one F.G. Smith.

I have since then been made happy by the denial of our own "Sleepy" Smith that he was not the author of this letter.

Nevertheless, after declaring that he was seeking the *Mirror's* cooperation in having the letter published in that newspaper, because it was sure to be suppressed by the Barbados press, the author went on to paint Barbados, from top to bottom, with a brush of crime, drug trafficking, pornography, corruption, fraud, miscarriage of justice and murder.

This was but the most recent of a string of reports that have appeared in the more sensational sections of the Trinidad press, all of which have similar content which, to the unknowing, gives Barbados the image of a crime and vice centre of the world.

One cannot have second thoughts over what effect such continuous presentations of a negative image of Barbados would have on the minds of would-be visitors in both North America, on which we depend for the largest chunk of our extra-regional tourist business, and Trinidad, our biggest Caribbean market.

Unfortunately, if what is suspected is true, it's a plot for which we have no immediate answer, since many of the allegations are based on some slender piece of truth, blown out of all proportion.

Unfortunately, also, there is the disturbing fact that Barbadians are weekly hawking up these Trinidad publications in thousands and hailing them as champions of cause.

In other words, they are relishing in the fact that their own country and themselves are being bathed in the mire of pig pen journalism.

It seems they do not realise that every would-be visitor turned off by such negative publicity, means that amount of dollars less to the economy, and a few steps nearer to economic collapse of our country and starvation.

CSO: 3298/073

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE DISCUSSES PROBLEMS, PROSPECTS

Problem of Unused Land

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

One of the major challenges for priority attention by the National Advisory Committee on Agriculture will be the question of thousands of acres of unused or idle land throughout the country.

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, Dr. Richard Cheltenham, in addressing the official launching of the Committee yesterday, said that there were some 5 000 acres of land lying idle, and a small country like Barbados could not afford the luxury of having this vast amount of land lying idle.

He said that the land ranged from small lots owned by old and retired citizens to large plots owned by active citizens and by plantations.

He added that clearly, the factors that would explain non-cultivation in one case would not be valid in another.

The minister further stated that clearly, too, the Government's approach to this matter which could be regarded as a mixture of tax inducements or tax penalties or other measures, have not been as successful as hoped.

"What is needed, is a precise determination of the location, amount and sizes of the lots involved and an urgent analysis of the reasons why land is out of use," he said.

The minister told the Committee that he was looking forward to a recommended new approach dealing with this matter in which no option however radical is overlooked.

He said that at the structural level, "we have to find the means of making agriculture as attractive as any other occupation, whether in manufacturing, tourism, industry or government.

Declared the minister:

"Equally, the young entrepreneur must view an investment in agriculture as attractive as one in tourism or in manufacturing, or indeed in any other field."

"In short, we have to bring an industrial ethos to bear on the sector's development, in the same way that other sectors have been infused by a spirit of entrepreneurship," he added.

The minister said that in addition, there was need to seek ways of intensifying the linkages between agriculture and tourism and industry; we have too to gear the sector to make the most efficient use of incentives and other support by the State.

Dr. Cheltenham also called on the Committee to address the question of the role of livestock production in Barbados, and he hoped that this would feature high in their discussions.

Sugar Industry Needs

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Oct 82 p 1

[Article by Courtney King]

[Text]

Barbados' Minister of Agriculture Dr. Richard Cheltenham, has said that this country has the capacity to produce 150 000 tonnes of sugar annually.

But he has pointed out that in order to achieve this goal, there must be concerted action to redress the problems facing the industry.

Addressing the official launching of the National Advisory Committee on Agriculture yesterday, Dr. Cheltenham spoke of the "severe stress" which the country's major agricultural export crop, sugar, has been under, but he noted that agriculture on the whole had consistently failed to attract real resources of the quality and quantum needed for satisfactory operation.

The Minister said that there was at large, "even in enlightened quarters", the view that all it takes to work in agriculture is a very strong back and a weak mind.

"I am however persuaded that agriculture can be revitalised and play an expanded role in this country's development" said Dr. Cheltenham.

The Minister had no doubt that the country can produce 150 000 tonnes of sugar annually, but highlighted such problems as the incidence of cane fires and the late start of

the reaping of the crop, together with the lack of introduction of proper systems of mechanisation which avoid excessive soils compaction.

He said that it had become fashionable in recent months to regard the target of 150 000 tonnes of sugar as unrealistic, "but I need remind you that only two years ago we produced 135 000 tonnes of sugar, 10 per cent short of the target without too much effort."

The Minister said that it was clear that since the country experienced similar rainfall patterns in the growing seasons of 1981 to that of 1979, the estimated 50 000 tonnes decline in sugar production was directly attributable to the late start of the crop in 1981 and 1982, and also in the persistence of cane fires.

He also spoke about the accumulative decline in the yield per acre of sugar cane in the country, moving from some four tonnes per acre 20 years or so ago, to two and a half tonnes per acre today.

Dr. Cheltenham told the 14-member Committee that all aspects of the sugar industry could stand in whole or part from their examinations.

He added however, that there could be no doubt that there was need for improved efficiency both at the level of the field and factory.

ACTION ON EMERGENCY POWERS BILL POSTPONED TO 1983

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 20 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

THE controversial Emergency Powers Bill will not be enacted in Barbados before next year.

The Speaker of the House of Assembly, Burton Hinds, yesterday granted the special Select Committee, which was appointed last May to consider and report on the bill, an extension of two months to complete its work.

In a report to the House, the Committee's Chairman Jack Odle, disclosed that a number of organisations and individuals had submitted memoranda to the committee, and had requested or indicated willingness to be heard.

Said Odle: "The Committee considered the submissions and recommendations made by memoranda. . . and agreed to invite the. . . persons and bodies

to appear before the committee at a date to be fixed."

Among those submitting memoranda are: the Barbados Christian Council, the Barbados Secondary Teachers' Union, the National Union of Public Workers, the Barbados Chamber of Commerce Incorporated, Extra Mural tutor Dr. Leonard Shorey, and Mr. Herbert Holder.

The Select Committee was appointed on May 26, amidst mounting opposition against what was publicly considered as an attempt to infringe on fundamental rights, including the right to strike.

The Parliamentary Opposition called for a total scrapping of the bill and refused to sit on the Select Committee of the House of Assembly.

CSO: 3298/073

MINISTRY CRACKING DOWN ON UTILITY PROJECT CONTRACTORS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Oct 82 p 1

[Article by Eric Smith]

[Text]

The Ministry of Transport and Works (MTW) is getting tough with public utility companies in Barbados for ignoring its regulations.

Yesterday, it ordered the contractors working on behalf of the Barbados Telephone Company at Black Rock, St. Michael to stop the excavation work it has been carrying out from the start of this week.

According to a source at MTW all public utility companies were written as late as last September setting out how the Ministry wants things done, but the source said they were not co-operating.

It was stated that the MTW receives the utility's programmes of works at a very short notice and because of this the Ministry will have to stop all work being done if such was not carried out according to the specified regulations.

It was pointed out that the

public blames the MTW for any dislocation suffered in the excavation programmes as well as for the poor state of the roads after the public utility companies finish their excavations. It was also stated that the cost of repairs go up two or three fold by the time the MTW has to repair or rebuild the roads when the utility companies have failed to be speedy in fulfilling all the regulations required.

Under the new arrangements the roads will be fixed almost immediately after the excavation has been completed by the utility companies.

It was stated that the MTW has been trying for a long time to have all excavation and other programmes or works by the utility companies properly co-ordinated but it has been unable to do so successfully, thereby creating various difficulties.

"We had to make an example of somebody", the MTW source said.

An official of the Barbados Telephone Company when contacted on the matter said it would not be true to state that the company had not complied with all the regulations set out, and added that while it was true that the money for the resurfacing had not been paid in advance, the fault could not be placed totally on the company. It was rather due to a "communications breakdown" within MTW, it was said.

It is expected that the necessary money could be deposited this morning and the excavation work started back.

The telephone Company official stressed that his company had not been creating any problems for MTW. Adding that it was not a case of ignoring the regulations.

A meeting was held yesterday afternoon at MTW between Ministry officials and representatives from the Telephone Company.

BRIEFS

YAM CROP--Barbadian yam growers will have a bumper harvest this year with over 600 acres of the commodity to be reaped. In disclosing this information yesterday, Dr Basil Springer, chairman of the Barbados Marketing Corporation (BMC) said that he was hoping that all of the growers will co-operate with the BMC and the Barbados Agricultural Society (BAS) in the effort to get the yams marketed. Speaking to a meeting of the growers at BAS headquarters on Beckles Road, Dr Springer said that the BMC wanted to have all of the estimated exportable crop of 1 800 tonnes sold. Last year, because of heavy rainfall during the planting period, only about 200 acres of yam was planted with some 622 tonnes being exported. The price paid to the farmers will be increased this year to 36.5 cents per pound compared with 34 cents last year. [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 13 Oct 82 p 1]

CSO: 3298/074

MINISTER SCORES UN REPORT ON BERMUDA AS 'IGNORANT'

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 7 Oct 82 pp 1, 5

[Text]

A strong recommendation by the United Nations General Assembly that Bermuda should diversify its economy by concentrating more on farming and fishing was yesterday dismissed as "profoundly ignorant" by Dr. the Hon. John Stubbs.

Commenting on the suggestion in a sub-committee report on small territories the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries said there was every reason to increase domestic production in agriculture.

But he added: "To suggest it as an economical measure is profoundly ignorant of our population density and the realities of the availability of arable land."

In one of ten recommendations, the report said: "The Special Committee, noting that the economy of the territory continues to depend heavily on tourism and international company business, strongly urges the administering power, in consultation with the Govern-

ment of Bermuda, to make every effort to diversify the economy of Bermuda, including increased efforts to promote agriculture and fisheries."

It further urges specialised agencies and all other organisations within the U.N. to continue to pay special attention to the development needs of Bermuda.

Viewing the diversification call with disdain Dr. Stubbs said: "Only the most superficial analysis could come up with a statement like that. It is totally impractical."

He continued: "As regards fisheries I think our catches from the platform — shallow water — have declined alarmingly in recent years and we have become more heavily reliant and used to eating more pelagic fish."

Dr. Stubbs said there had been diversification within international business which ought to be encouraged and extended further. Tourism

and international companies were the only two industries which could be relied upon to any large extent.

An exercise once showed that if every piece of available land, including golf courses, were used for agriculture 15,000 people could be fed. But going into maximum agriculture was "a pretty extreme measure".

The sub-committee underlined the inalienable right of Bermudians to self-determination and independence and reiterated that such factors as size, geographical location, population and limited natural resources should in no way delay the move.

The setting up of a Human Rights Commission was welcomed. There was also reiteration that the process of Bermudianisation be expedited. "In this connection the Committee urges that particular attention be paid to greater localisation of the public service."

UBP DENIES TV AD CAMPAIGN IS PRELUDE TO GENERAL ELECTION

Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 5 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

The ruling United Bermuda Party launched a membership drive on both television channels at the weekend — but denied the campaign is part of a run-up to a General Election.

Commercials featuring M.P.s and party officials will be featured on ZBM and ZFB in the next month encouraging the public to sign up. The "stars" praise the performance of the U.B.P. with election-style tributes.

Normally a boost in party advertising indicates that an election is on the way. But the U.B.P.'s executive officer, Mr. Ed Williams, strongly denied the party had such plans.

"The campaign certainly doesn't indicate an election in the next few months," he said.

"Something like that takes a great deal of time to put together."

There has been specula-

tion that the Premier, the Hon. John Swan, might spring a surprise end-of-the-year election to cash in on his current personal popularity, as reflected in recent telephone polls, and the encouraging support for his Government in those surveys.

Bermuda's governments are elected for five-year terms, so Mr. Swan does not have to lead his team to the polls before December 1985. But it is known that he is keen to seek a personal mandate from the voters. The U.B.P. won the last election under the leadership of former Premier and current Finance Minister the Hon. David Gibbons.

The TV commercials were filmed a few weeks ago at the party's Labour Day picnic at Ferry Reach and produced by Advance Planning and Communications, the Toronto-based public re-

lations firm who have the contract to handle Government's advertising for the next election.

Three different commercials have been made. One is of party members talking about the party, a second shows people talking about Mr. Swan, and the third is of Mr. Swan talking about the U.B.P. and the country.

Mr. Williams said that one commercial would be shown on each channel every night for the next three or four weeks. He declined to reveal the cost of the campaign.

Among the personalities featured are Mr. Lancelot Swan, M.P. for St. George's South, Mrs. Grace Pitcher and Mr. Robert "Skippy" Lewis, officers of the U.B.P. branches in St. George's, Dr. George Thomas, a prospective candidate for Hamilton West, and Mr. Williams.

BRIEFS

UBP SLAP AT OPPOSITION--Claims by Opposition MP and former Chief Statistician Mr Calvin Smith that Bermuda's black population wielded no significant economic or political control were labelled "arrant nonsense" last night by the United Bermuda Party. U.B.P. Deputy Chairman Mr Edgar Wilkinson hit back in a strongly-worded statement at a letter from Mr Smith which appeared in the Island's newspapers recently and which argued that vast financial assets in Bermuda were controlled mostly by non-blacks. Mr Smith had also accused the U.B.P. of having little black support. Mr Wilkinson countered yesterday: "His letter is hardly the type of arrant nonsense expected from Bermuda's ex-statistician. His calculations are absolutely incorrect and misleading." Mr Wilkinson went on: "No amount of creative bookkeeping can arrive at a figure of \$7 billion as the asset base of so-called non-black savings institutions." "The combined assets of all savings institutions cannot add up to anything like that figure." Mr Wilkinson also claimed that the U.B.P. enjoyed the support of 54 percent of the voters, black and white. "He misuses the census when he says that the U.B.P. enjoys no black support," said Mr Wilkinson. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 8 Oct 82 p 2]

SECURITY EXERCISES--Internal security measures are being tested during a three-day set of exercises involving the Police, the Bermuda Regiment and Government. The exercises started yesterday and continue until Sunday. They follow on from the large-scale Regiment exercises conducted in June. Major General T.A. Boam, head of British Defence Staff, Washington, and some of his staff are in Bermuda as military observers. The aims of the exercises are to test contingency plans in the event of an emergency and check command links between the Police and the Regiment. A Government spokesman said that the exercises are taking place mainly within Police Headquarters, Prospect and Warwick Camp and are not expected to cause any inconvenience to the public. [Text] [Hamilton THE ROYAL GAZETTE in English 15 Oct 82 p 8]

BETANCUR: DECISION MADE TO JOIN NONALIGNED COUNTRIES

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Oct 82 pp 1-A, 10-A

[Article by German Santamaria, special correspondent of EL TIEMPO]

[Text] La Paz, 10 Oct--President Belisario Betancur announced here today his administration's official decision to have Colombia join the Organization of Nonaligned Countries. His announcement came during an impassioned pro-Latin America speech that he delivered before the chiefs of state and special delegations that attended the inauguration of Bolivia's new president, Hernan Siles Zuazo.

"The Colombian Government, which I am honored to head, has decided to join the group of nonaligned countries, specifically to emphasize, both in its practical politics and on a symbolic level, if you wish, the need to search thoroughly for ways out of a situation in which our own woes have been aggravated by the torrent of conflicts and rivalries that should not be affecting us because they have nothing to do with us and our determination not to have to listen to any advice, regardless of its source, in seeking our own identity," the Colombian president asserted.

Belisario Betancur's speech, congratulating the Bolivian Government on its return to democracy on behalf of all those invited to the inauguration, means that Colombia is definitely joining the nonaligned movement, because he announced it here as a decision by his administration.

As we will recall, Belisario Betancur announced in his inaugural speech on 7 August that he would make such a decision in consultation with the Foreign Relations Advisory Committee, of which Senator Alvaro Gomez Hurtado is a member. This, however, was a presidential decision and a totally valid one because the president is the country's foreign policy-maker.

The Falklands And Other Issues

In his address to the large group of prominent figures who were invited to the inauguration in Bolivia, including the chiefs of state of countries that are already members of the nonaligned movement, such as Ecuador,

Peru, Nicaragua and Bolivia itself, the Colombian president talked briefly about the Malvinas Islands affair, saying that this conflict "demonstrated that in the eyes of the major powers we are merely something to be disdained."

He spoke in his classical style about the need for Latin American integration in dealing with the major powers.

He advocated the consolidation of regional groups such as the Andean Pact and contended that without them the countries of this continent are lost. "In the international community we are equals, but at the bargaining table we are merely the backyard of all the varieties of imperialism, which all show the same cold face," he asserted

Amplifying further on the need for a continental organization to deal with world affairs, the president pointed out that such solidarity "could somewhat mitigate the severely defenseless posture of our weak nations vis-a-vis the great economic and financial powers, the deaf and blind superpowers that sell high to us and buy low from us, shattering our independence with the disdainful arrogance of their might."

The Colombian chief of state's speech was very well received in all political and intellectual circles in La Paz, which underscored it as further evidence that Colombia's present foreign policy is different from the one pursued up to this past 7 August.

In the corridors of the Presidential Palace, where the ceremony during which President Betancur delivered his speech was held, several chiefs of state spoke favorably of the Colombian president's stand.

Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry noted that "Colombia's new foreign policy is healthy for the entire continent." Nobel peace prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel from Argentina said that Colombia's new stand also reflects the new situation in Colombia with regard to human rights, which I have heard are now respected to a great extent."

Nicaraguan Government Junta member Sergio Ramirez commented: "Colombia's new position is interesting." The previous night the Nicaraguan leader had said that his country was standing firm in its claim to San Andres and Providencia.

"We're now in the nonaligned movement, aren't we?" asked one of the members of the Colombian colony in Bolivia, who also voiced his strong approval of the Colombian Government's decision.

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CSO: 3348/13

INDIANS CHARGE FARC WITH KILLINGS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Oct 82 p 8-A

[Text] The Indigenous Regional Council of the Cauca (CRIC) has accused a FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] unit of killing nine Indians in the northern Cauca.

CRIC said that the father and brother of Manuel Antonio Julicue were slain last Friday by the Sixth Front of the FARC, a guerrilla group with links to the Communist Party. The Indigenous Council also pointed to the FARC as the slayers of seven Indians in the town of Los Tigres on 3 February 1981.

The Indians hold the guerrillas responsible for several attacks in which a number of council members were wounded and in a communique issued yesterday have asked human rights groups to speak out against these acts to the Secretariat General of the Colombian Communist Party.

The CRIS communique reads as follows:

The Regional Indigenous Council of the Cauca reports: The Sixth Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, under the command of Commander Richard, claimed responsibility in its publication REVOLUCION (No 21, August 1982) for the massacre of seven Indian comrades in Los Tigres, La Aurora District, on 3 February 1981, in which our comrade and leader of the indigenous communities in the northern Cauca, Jose Maria Ulcue, was killed.

Threats

For some time now this guerrilla front and several cadres of the Communist Party in the Cauca region have been threatening and publicly slandering leaders of our organization and commune members from the precincts of San Francisco, Toribio, Potrerito, El Congo, Natala, El Credo, Corinto, Canoas, La Aguada and La Aurora, portraying our Indian comrades as bandits and mercenaries bent on land encroachment.

Facts

These threats have materialized in the form of attacks on the family of Comrade Manuel Antonio Jalique, the treasurer of our organization's Executive Committee, during the most recent of which, on 8 October, his father Ramon Jalique and 15-year old brother Benito were killed. His mother Rosa and his 12-year old sister Esneda were wounded. Comrade Ramon served as governor of the San Francisco Town Council and president of the community enterprise.

Five days before, Comrades Miguel and Ramiro Jalique were wounded, and the latter, who is 17, will be an invalid for the rest of his life.

8743

CSO: 3348/13

FARC ATTACK FAILS, TWO GUERRILLAS KILLED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Oct 82 p 1-A

[Excerpts] Two guerrillas, one policeman and one civilian were left dead yesterday when a FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] tried unsuccessfully to take over the municipality of Pacho in Cundinamarca, where a curfew and dry law were imposed.

At least 10 other persons were wounded in the shootout that took place right in the middle of the town's public market, Pacho Mayor Adolfo Rene Benitez, an architect, reported last night.

The dry law will be in force indefinitely as a precautionary measure. The curfew was lifted last night.

The mayor said that although the guerrillas were looking for provisions, they apparently were also planning to take over the town.

The incident took place at 11:30 in the morning in the downtown area after a policeman asked two strangers for identification and one of them answered with a gunshot that ended his life.

The two guerrillas were killed during the exchange of fire with the rest of the patrol. The others fled.

The governor of Cundinamarca, Julio Cesar Sanchez, immediately ordered reinforcements sent to Pacho.

8745

CSO: 3248/13

BRIEFS

DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENT FIGURES--During the first half of this year the government approved \$79 million in direct foreign investment in the country, which will enable 29 new joint ventures to start up. The National Planning Department has issued a report on the investment requests that were approved during this period, indicating that companies from 20 countries have begun bringing in capital earmarked for manufacturing, services, marketing, farming, mining and finance. [Text] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 10 Oct 82 p 1] 8743

CSO: 3348/13

COMBAT READINESS TRAINING, EFFECTIVENESS DESCRIBED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 23 Sep 82 No 38 pp 28-31

[Article by Mario Rodriguez: "The Activities of the Commander"]

[Text] The mission of enhancing the effectiveness of combat and political training for our troops entails an earnest effort to upgrade the organizational activities of the commanders and their mastery of methodology, as well as a search for new methods for the study and use of combat equipment and armaments.

During the ceremony honoring the FAR vanguards in the 1974-1975 training year, the minister of the FRA, Army Gen Raul Castro, stated:

"There have been striking changes in the Revolutionary Armed Forces in terms of armaments, technical equipment and organizational enhancement. Moreover, new regulations have boosted the indices of combat and political training in particular and of all training tasks in general, especially with regard to the standards and the practical training in the field, as is to shorten the time periods for placing the units in total combat readiness."

The FAR minister's remarks are especially apropos at this moment, when the scientific and technological revolution has considerably bolstered the existing interrelationship among the training, educational and leadership functions that a commander must discharge.

Combat readiness of small and larger units depends more than ever today on the scientific organization of the combatants' activities and on their training and education.

The educational process is relatively independent because it has its own specific characteristics and rules. Whereas during training the periods in which knowledge, habits and skills will be acquired can be anticipated and the final results forecast, this is much more difficult in education because it involves planning ways and means, with the effects not making themselves immediately felt.

The political chiefs and workers at their various levels and the party and UJC [Union of Young Communists] organizations are in charge of the troop education process. Nevertheless, the commander of a unit bears the greatest responsibility for its education, discipline and combat readiness.

A commander's activities in the area of personnel education and training span a wide range of tasks and missions, as well as a whole series of methods, tools and principles that he must know how to apply skillfully in accordance with the specific situation.

A commander's basic objective is to develop high-level moral, combat and psychological qualities in his personnel and to constantly enhance the combat readiness of the military unit under his command.

Of great importance in this regard is the education of the combatants in the spirit of resolute and bold action, as well as their practical training in the successful use of combat weaponry and equipment in battle. All facets of training guidance and all measures organized and implemented in this regard are designed to achieve this objective.

The combatants are educated and trained during the combat and political training process and while they are on active duty, which is characterized by the strictest observance of the standards and regulations set forth in the existing military orders and regulations.

A commander's proper organization of training and service helps to develop a high level of discipline and communist awareness in the combatants and enhances their readiness for resolute, bold action by giving them the knowledge, habits and skills they need to engage in combat.

Thus, when a commander achieves good results in training and service, at the same time he is carrying out major missions inherent to the education of his subordinates. For example, the more successes the combatants score in combat and political training, the more strictly and rigorously they will observe regulations and discipline and the faster they will consolidate the moral, combat and psychological qualities they need.

Good results in training and service are essential influences in the inner world and personal qualities of the combatants, further their moral convictions and develop the corresponding professional skills.

This is possible, of course, when the training process is organized and daily activities are performed on the basis of effective organizational principles and the policy-making documents that govern them.

For example, Directive No 1 of the FAR minister concerning political and party work during the 1981-1985 period establishes, in Guideline 46, the need to:

... political and party work in the interest of operational, and political training, and wage a resolute struggle against ... and simplifications in troop training. Tighten demands in ... monitor activities and the enhancement and development ... materials program."

... is a much more complex profession, and the cultural ... level of new soldiers is much higher. Thus, in order ... to perform his educational functions, he must possess ... multifaceted training, characterized by his mastery of military and psycho-pedagogical facets.

In order to successfully train, educate and lead military personnel, a commander must now more than ever be familiar with and skillfully apply the principles governing troop command, education and training.

In view of experience, we can summarize the basic principles of a commander's ... as follows:

... and a diligent approach, a single command and ongoing ... to party and UJC organizations, practicality and effectiveness, ... and results, monitoring and assistance, education, mobilization and moral and material incentives for achievers.

By efficiently and dialectically employing these principles, a commander will succeed in substantially enhancing the quality of combat and political ... as well as of educational and organizational efforts.

The following principles in educating combatants have now been developed ... scientific grounds:

... and support for the party

... education of personnel during active military service

... the educational process through and in the unit

... for combatants

... fair demands, respect for the dignity of the person and ... for him

... and reliance on the positive results achieved ... educational process

... interrelationship and sequence of educational ...

... are merely the precepts that reflect the ... conditions for the successful completion of ... training. They are not applied in isolation, but ... manner, forming a single whole.

Educational methods are the means and procedures for influencing the behavior and activities of the combatants in order to develop high-level moral and combat qualities in them.

Marxist-Leninist military pedagogy has scientifically developed the following system of educational methods: convincing, practice, encouragement, coercion and example.

This system of methods derives from the very essence of the educational process and from the missions discharged in the development of the personality of the combatant and of the entire military unit.

Educational methods are closely interrelated, and therefore in analyzing the results achieved by a commander in educational efforts, we must bear in mind all of the methods employed in accordance with the prevailing situation.

By training principles we mean those general and fundamental precepts and guidelines that determine the content, organization and methodology of training. These principles involve:

- Support for the party and an emphasis on science
- Teaching the troops about everything necessary for war
- The conscious and active involvement of the instructors
- Objective instruction
- Systematic, consistent instruction
- Easily grasped instruction
- A secure mastery of knowledge, habits and skills
- Teamwork and individual attention in instruction

Each one of the above precepts has its own specific content and demands.

Training is a single process in which every element is linked. This implies, therefore, that there must be a stable interrelationship among its principles.

Prominent among a commander's tasks are the selection and use of the various training methods, which could even determine the success of combat and political training.

Training methods are the means and procedures for influencing the psyche and activities of the combatants in order to develop high-level moral and combat qualities and instill knowledge, habits and skills in them.

teaching methods include: an oral expose of the study materials, demonstration, practice, individual work and practical tasks.

there is a consistent relationship between the way a commander carries out his educational, training and leadership activities and the results achieved, which are ultimately reflected in his personnel and their combat readiness.

On the graduation ceremony for one of the classes of cadets the Minister of the FAR, Army Gen Raul Castro, said the following about political education and training:

"We must use sound methods for educating our soldiers and systematically explain the regulations and provisions in this regard; do not repeat them like parrots. Moreover, however, it is indispensable for you to respect and make known the rights of subordinates, to avoid excesses and improper disciplinary measures at all costs and to treat the soldiers properly. To do otherwise is to underestimate the person and to treat the soldiers superficially."

One of the main conditions for the successful education and training of soldiers is their commander's familiarity with the scientific principles of troop command. A military leader must have a thorough knowledge of dialectical materialism, the Marxist-Leninist theory on war and the armed forces, military science and doctrine, psychology, pedagogy, political and party work, etc.

During the education and training of subordinates more effective during peacetime and during combat and political training is, in a manner speaking, the core of a commander's activities.

A military leader must be constantly concerned about whether his personnel are developing the necessary psychological, moral and combat qualities, constantly assimilating a constantly expanding body of knowledge and forming sound habits for engaging in combat.

The logical question of whether or not the training of the personnel of the unit can be accelerated can be answered in the affirmative. The psychological condition for achieving this is to boost incentives among combatants.

As the personnel are made aware of the goals of their training and the importance of the procedures that they must perform. Separately, if they are given an explanation of what a violation of the rules might lead to, the soldiers will proceed more conscientiously and will quickly consolidate their moral and professional qualities.

In combat units, for example, the punctual performance of orders, the care of equipment and teamwork are very important

Manuel Bisbe, an engineer, told us once during a visit to his unit, "teamwork in the rocket unit is decisive in successfully performing combat guard duty."

"This is why we have always explained to our personnel that any mistake, carelessness or lack of promptness, even by a single combatant, could cancel out the efforts of the rest of the unit."

The starting point for an individual's education is his group's efforts as a school of firmness and discipline and his own acquisition of technical and professional know-how and a solid political background.

The path to successful education and training for combatants is unquestionable practice. This is where know-how, the conviction as to the correctness of each procedure and initiative in action come together.

Every officer who aims at developing high-level military skills in his subordinates will see to it that their activities include positive motivations, are performed conscientiously, are somewhat difficult and complex and demand intellectual and physical effort, as well as initiative and creativity.

A commander must also take into account the methods utilized and the efforts put forth in reaching for success in combat and political training. Both the efforts and the methods must be justified from both a moral and psychological standpoint.

A military leader's efforts will be successful to the extent that his subordinates rationally perform their missions, do not squander their energies and have soundly developed their personalities.

In order to fuse in practice his training, educational and leadership activities, a commander must study his subordinates and analyze and assess their results by applying his knowledge of military pedagogy and psychology.

Only by meeting these conditions will he be able to provide individual attention, enhance the effectiveness of educational activities and bolster his efficiency in guiding the development of the combatant's and the military unit's personality.

8743

CSO: 3248/76

HELICOPTER COMBAT TRAINING ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED

Revista VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 23 Sep 82 No 38 pp 36-39

Article by Rolando Pujol, in cooperation with SIEMPRE ALERTA, the newspaper of the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force (DAAFAR)]

Every day on the firing range is important for both the helicopter crews and the personnel who service the weaponry and aircraft safety systems. The time has come for all of them to test the knowledge they have acquired over long months of training under conditions similar to those of the battlefield.

Each person knows what he has to do, and long before the first rays of the sun peer over the horizon the combatants are performing their usual tasks, readying the aircraft for their missions. Proceeding efficiently and carefully, they fill them with fuel, mount the guns and do the final inspection before takeoff.

It is finally time to begin the training exercise, and the effect on the aircraft is the same as a starter's gun has on a group of runners. Powered by the rotors, the helicopter blades produce a monumental cloud of dust until the aircraft speed up and fire their missiles at the targets that have been placed at a lonely spot on the coast.

Targets

The next in the cabin is of great interest. Three pairs of eyes are focused on the targets that have been made deliberately small to make them more complex.

Before they are spotted. Using four hands, the pilot steers the aircraft along the firing line and at the same time makes calculations for launching the rockets. The technician is actively involved and promptly takes his place in front of the cockpit in the aircraft's pose.

As the target nears, but there is a strong sense of calm and consideration. The pilot steps smoothly

on the pedals, and the helicopter noses slightly to the right, offsetting the effect of the wind on the trajectory of the shot.

It now remains only to coordinate with the helicopter that is flying as a "number" in the rear and is also going to fire.

Both aircraft reach the proper distance from the target together. The targets come into the pilot's display unit; the order to fire is given, and the rockets streak off in a broadside, exploding in a torrent of sparks within the target area. It is now the flight technician's turn to finish it off with a hail of lead. He takes aim...and the pilot helps him with the controls, keeping the aircraft along the line of fire. The rattling of the machine gun shakes the fuselage, and the tracers penetrate the wooden square amid an intermittent rain. If it had been an enemy armored truck or transport, its occupants would never have lived to "tell the tale."

Banking broadly, the helicopter returns. When it lands, another load of rockets and bullets fill the ammunition compartment, and a new crew takes over.

Hours later, when the sun is still not more than 90 degrees above the horizon, not much is left of the targets.

In his summation the commander of the unit congratulates his men. Their overall mark is satisfactory, as it will surely be on the day that they have to fire on any tanks and vessels that try to attack this land of titans.



From his mobile command post the flight director monitors the aircraft in the firing range so that the exercise is performed without mishap.

8-46

CS : 3248 76

NEED FOR IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL QUALITY NOTED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 4 Aug 82 p 2

[Article by Georgina Jimenez]

[Text] Our social achievements in the field of education have been so commonplace throughout the years that they are now considered normal and without particular relevance; and yet they are achievements that are practically unknown in countries of the Third World.

In this instance, we have reference to the guarantee of continuing education for all graduates of the 6th and 9th grades.

In the first place, we must take as our point of departure the universalization of elementary education and the fact that this school year 97.2 percent of the children between the ages of 6 and 12 were enrolled in the school system. Therefore, if we guarantee continuing studies for all graduates of this educational level, this is the equivalent of doing so for the country's entire school-age population.

During this school year, for example, almost all the 6th grade graduates went on to the basic secondary schools, while a small number entered polytechnical schools.

However, this real and concrete achievement is not limited solely to guaranteeing that these adolescents reach the 9th grade. What is involved here--the results this school year were the same as those attained in prior years--is the fact that 94.2 percent of the 9th grade graduates continued their studies in higher middle education; and only a reduced group failed to continue their schooling for various reasons, such as getting married, joining the workforce and other unspecified reasons.

These achievements have made it impossible for illiteracy to reappear as a social phenomenon in our country and constitute definitive blows against the dearth of schooling which characterized our populace prior to 1959. Paralleling the efforts being made by the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions], MINED [Ministry of Education] and other organizations and entities to advance the Battle for the 9th Grade is the assurance of continuing studies for children of school age which in the future will permit them to

definitely count on this grade as the minimum level of schooling in our country.

Is there any comparison between this reality and the situation existing in Cuba before the revolution, which inherited over 1 million illiterates and whose population as a whole had not gone beyond the 2d grade? Is there any comparison between this situation and the sad reality that 44 million of the 159 million adults in Latin America and the Caribbean are illiterate, that in this area 22 million children do not attend classes and that the school drop out rate in the first few grades, as the result of early incorporation into the work force, malnutrition, illnesses and lack of schools and teachers, is a problem which up to now was considered insoluble?

What we are now attempting to do in our country is to raise the quality of the massive educational system through hard and sustained work. The results of the present school year reflect an ascending and stimulating trend.

CSO: 3910/2227

SUCCESS OF NEW STATE ARBITRATION SYSTEM DESCRIBED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 4 Aug 82 p 2

[Article by Fernando Davalos, Economic Management and Planning System]

[Text] The State Arbitration System [SAE], in spite of the fact that it has only been in effect for a short period of time, has helped to heighten contractual discipline and strengthen commercial relations between state corporations, thus fulfilling an important mission within the Economic Management and Planning System [SDPE].

The arbitral function of the SAE, even though it is still in its infancy, has come to fill an important need (in its double role as a jurisdictional body and an economic management body) within the institutional structure that demanded the establishment of the SDPE.

Already within its first stage, the SAE has established valuable experiences in the correct conception, drafting, and enforcement of economic contracts, a corner stone in economic relations and the fulfillment of the Unique Economic and Social Development Plan.

The demand for material responsibility, which is implicit in the functions of the organs of the SAE, has been directed toward the state corporations that, in fulfilling their obligations, endanger the correct implementation of the Plan, which, aside from its newness within the context of our new socialist economic relations, also becomes a powerful leverage in economic discipline.

The experiences of the SAE's first year, however, make it necessary for it to fight a hard fight with efficient measures tending to eradicate some of the following problems:

--Solving some cases that have exceeded the legally established time due to delays in the delivery of information requested to the institutions and corporations.

--Giving better attention to the arbitral and advisory bodies. This would be done by the bodies under the Central Administration of the State, which would also set in motion the legal means that in an overall way would help arbitral preventive activity.

need to develop greater initiative with a view to tackling problems that have been hampering arbitral activities. This would be accomplished by involving institutions from all sectors of the economy.

need to continue making an in-depth study of the generalization of arbitration practices and gaining knowledge about economic activity.

extension of the use of arbitration and the demanding of the enforcement of contractual discipline, which is what could be thought of as its "preventive" function, must without a doubt be continued.

circumstances demand it, the steps necessary for the proper outworking of the procedure must be taken if for any reason the entities responsible do not file a claim or fail to do so within the time fixed by law.

different kinds of problems can be discerned within the context of contractual relations, some of which reflect the insufficient or inadequate development of economic links within the socio-productive process. Others will exist and adversely affect contractual relations, the arbitration process itself, and worse yet, the economic relations stemming from the implementation of the Plan originate in alleged "technical" difficulties involved in the contracting process.

none other than the presence of subjective causes in these problems resolution can be within reach at any time because to a great extent, it depends on us. It bears emphasizing that it is known that the problems related with the contracting process, for example, are primarily under jurisdiction of the SAE, but it also bears mentioning that they are not under its sole jurisdiction.

end of 1981, the State Arbitration System's organizations had total of 2,604 cases of which 1,505 were initiated by private parties, 1,097 by organizations and 52 represented cases being reviewed. First quarter of 1982, 1,636 cases were filed which, compared with 1,113 in the same period in 1981, bear witness to the positive attitude of arbitration on parties to economic contracts, in spite of the inertia observed in many cases.

FREEDOM PARTY MARKS TWO YEARS IN POWER, CHARLES HITS DISSIDENTS

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 14 Oct 82 p 3

[Text]

ROSEAU, Dominica, Wednesday (CANA) — The Dominica Freedom Party Government, led by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, says it has unswervingly upheld the principles of democracy since being voted into power here with a landslide majority two years ago. "Our Freedom Party Government has been faithful to the democratic principles. If some of our strongest supporters are offended, we will persevere in explaining to them and making them understand that we must show our dedication to the democratic way of life by our deeds as well as our words," Prime Minister Charles said in a magazine published to mark the DFP's second anniversary in power.

The magazine was launched over the weekend at a political meeting of the party held here. The DFP won power here in July 1980, taking 17 of the 21 parliamentary seats at stake.

Miss Charles' administration has come under fire from local opposition groups for abusing democracy and Grenada has charged that

the DFP Government was the worst violator of human rights in the Caribbean.

The Dominica leader stressed that her party was not interested in any ideological label, stating that its main aim was harnessing the resources of the people here in the interest of pushing the largely under-developed island forward.

But Miss Charles said: "There are those among us who thrive on disunity and they continue to try to divide the people of Dominica."

"There are those who do not accept the mandate of the people and would rather have foreign mercenaries come in to spill the blood of innocent

and patriotic Dominicans. They have forced us to divert much of our meagre resources into providing greater security for the state."

Despite such setbacks, government still had been able to achieve some measure of progress and had created over 3 500 jobs since in office, the Prime Minister said, adding: "With our plans for industrialisation progressing the figures should rise."

NEWS PAPS GOVERNMENT PLAN TO RESTRUCTURE BANANA INDUSTRY

St. John ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 20 Oct 82 p 3

[ext]

ROSEAU, Dominica, Tuesday, (CANA) — A leading workers union in Dominica today attacked Government's plans to restructure the management of the vital banana industry and said it feared many jobs would be lost.

The National Workers Union (NWU) also, accused the Government of wanting to wash its hands of the industry, which provides Dominica with three quarters of its foreign exchange.

Government has announced plans to replace the Dominica Banana Growers Association (DBGA), which manages the financially-troubled industry, with a national company with farmers as shareholders.

In a statement the NWU said Government's motive at phasing out the Dominica Banana Growers Association (DBGA) "must be seriously questioned."

Government officials have

been holding meetings with banana farmers across the island on its proposals and told farmers that a new company, which would first be administered like a statutory board and later taken over by the growers themselves, would be set up to look after the banana industry.

The NWU said: "Although there is a DBGA with Government's aid to manage the industry we all know of the immense hardship endured not only by people involved in the industry but the entire nation."

"The farmers must now ask themselves are they more capable to handle the industry than the Government they vote into power to look after the affairs of the industry, the mainstay of the economy."

The union charged that any attempt to dissolve the present Banana Growers Association and replace it with a new company would

result in many workers losing their jobs.

"What is going to happen to those people who work for the DBGA? The NWU asked, adding "seemingly the majority of them will have to join the unemployed."

The union stated that Government had reported that over the past two years it had had to inject more than EC \$18 million (one EC dollar equal 37 cents US) into the industry and asked "Where can the farmers themselves get such a sum to bring back the industry to life?"

"The Government must bring the industry in terms of production to what it was and further from when it took up office and then it can start thinking of allowing private farmers to continue the operation," the NWU stated.

It urged the government not to attempt to bury the industry and be "able to wash their hands -- free from blame."

BRIEFS

ROW OVER COURTS--Roseau, Dominica, Thursday (CANA)--The Opposition Dominica Labour Party (DLP) has said that a remark by Attorney General Ronan David concerning the courts here reflected the bitter resentment the administration had over recent court decisions. Mr David, speaking at a welcoming ceremony for the first female judge in Dominica, Monica Joseph said he hoped that her presence on the bench would restore the confidence of the public in the integrity and dignity inherent in the judiciary. But in a statement issued today former Prime Minister Patrick John's Dominica Labour Party charged that the statement "seeks to imply that the present judge has been hand picked by the Attorney General's office for the purpose of restoring the integrity of the judiciary." [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 15 Oct 82 p 3]

VENEZUELAN AID FOR ROADS--Roseau, Dominica, Saturday (CANA)--Venezuela has given Dominica just over US\$561 000 to assist in the reconstruction of 11 kilometres of road in the south of the island. Francisco Lavarez, charge d'Affaires at the Venezuelan Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago, presented the money to Prime Minister Eugenia Charles under that oil-rich country's international cooperation programme. The aid is a result of visits paid to Caracas by Prime Minister of Communications and Works Henry Dyer over the past year. Government officials also said a Venezuelan construction firm was expected here later this year to supervise the reconstruction of the road linking two villages--Pointe Michel and Scott's Head--in the south of the island. The Venezuelan assistance is part of an overall road rehabilitation programme which the government has embarked upon since assuming office two years ago. The programme will see the rehabilitation of almost 96 miles of road all over the island at an estimated cost of some \$103 million. Meanwhile, two representatives of a Canadian consultant firm are now here carrying out pre-construction surveys on the Portsmouth to Hatton Garden Road project in the north of Dominica. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Oct 82 p 3]

SO: 3298/081

CHIN'S CAYETANO CARPIO INTERVIEWED BY 'SOBERANIA'

Managua SOBERANIA in English No 6 Aug 82 pp 38-46

[Article by Claribel Alegria and D.J. Flakoll]

[Text]

Commandant Marcial, member of the General Command of the Farabundo Martí Front for National Liberation (FMLN), the intervention of Honduran troops in the war against the Salvadoran guerrilla was foreseeable more than a year ago and represents an escalation of North American intervention in Central America, the dynamics of which points toward an eventual direct intervention by U.S. troops in the zone.

Salvador Cayetano Carpio (Marcial) is undoubtedly the "gray fox" of the Salvadoran revolution: the veteran labor union leader who, 12 years ago, formed with a few companions the Popular Liberation Forces "Farabundo Martí" (FPL) and oriented the latent revolutionary movement of his country toward a politico-military strategy of prolonged people's warfare to achieve national liberation.

According to Marcial, the North American strategy to extinguish the revolutionary flames in Central America has already failed, inasmuch as "the Honduran forces are too few to carry out all the aggressive missions the imperialists have assigned them

We recently had the opportunity to converse lengthily with Commandant Marcial about the increasing North American aggressiveness in the region, and the following is his reply to our questions:

Question: Do you consider that with the recent massive introduction of Honduran troops into the Salvadoran struggle, the conflict has been irreversibly regionalized?

Marcial: It is an escalation. The North American intervention has already regionalized the conflict. More than a year ago we Salvadoran revolutionaries pointed out these advancing steps of the North American intervention. They obey a global strategy in the region which forms part of a worldwide strategy

The strategy of the North American government is aggressive, bellicose, arrogant, and it attempts to stop the wheel of history, to reverse the wheel of history. It is an unrealistic policy. It doesn't take into account the great changes in humanity's development during past decades. In a blind manner, as with all extreme reactionary forces, it would like to change the entire present configuration of the world.

In the first place, it does not want the independence or self-determination of peoples. It wants not only to continue, but to strengthen, the dominion of its monopolies; it desires economic domination, economic suction of weak countries to widen and deepen the abyss that separates them from the great American opulence, achieved by means of the exploitation of other countries. Its policy is directed towards making poor countries even poorer and North American imperialism more arrogant, even at the expense of other bourgeois nations, for example the European nations, Japan, etc. Wherever a people is liberating itself, is constructing its own future, Reagan's policy attempts to check that advance.

His policy with respect to Latin America and the Caribbean exists within this framework. He considers these countries to be his backyard, as those people say, not possessing the dignity of countries that have their own historic destiny to fulfill in the concourse of nations and of humankind, but simply as sources of his own enrichment.

For 50 years El Salvador has existed under a military tyranny, dominated and directed by North American imperialism. The people cannot live with this situation. The people have a right to fight for a better future in a country where exploitation by North American companies and their internal partners has led to the extreme pauperization of the great majority. It has led to extreme levels of infant mortality—more or less 50 percent in the first five years of life—, to extreme malnutrition, to a scarcity of land, to real hunger and an absolute lack of application of human rights and democratic liberties.

It is impossible for people to tolerate such a life. When they are led toward their own extinction and death by starvation, people have to rise up in arms. It is preferable to die fighting than to die slowly of inanition.

In this situation, the Reagan government clings to continuance of this system that the Salvadoran people no longer tolerate. It is held back by nothing, neither by genocide nor by the death of thousands of our children, women and old people.

What does Reagan want to do, destroy our population? Why is he sending so many airplanes, so many helicopters? What is his objective? What are the Salvadoran people doing to Reagan? How are they harming him when they want their freedom?

For the past year we have been pointing out that the obnoxious bloc of the three armies of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras are part of the long-range policy of the United States, not only to attempt to annihilate the

Salvadoran people and defeat their revolution—which is really an unattainable dream— but also to achieve the pacification of these countries, to return to the blissful years of imperialism when military tyrannies did not have to contend with mass popular movements: the years of Ubico, Martínez, Tiburcio Carias and Somoza—imperialism's happy years.

Reagan's government would like to return to this situation, which he calls peace but which represents death for our peoples. Unfortunately for imperialism, this can no longer be achieved. All of this leads to an escalation in which, undoubtedly, the dynamic of events points toward North American soldiers having to fight in El Salvador and other parts of Central America.

What is happening right now? the Yankee government arms its Salvadoran puppets to the teeth; it loudly promotes the three new brigades it has mustered: brigades that are specialized in counter-insurgency warfare and genocide against the people. The revolutionary forces immediately surpass the expectations that the imperialists have placed in these puppet forces and, within a few days, plunges them once again into demoralization and defeat.

The month of June was sufficient to once again spread confusion within the army when it was unable to attain its objectives. As a consequence they had to resort to another of imperialism's three major puppets in Central America: the government and army of Honduras, which has been transformed into the principle aggressive base of North American imperialism.

This is the unhappy role that has been forced upon the government and, fundamentally, the Honduran army, led by such unconditional lackeys as Alvarez (Col. Gustavo Alvarez Martinez). These people are absolutely disposed to sell out their country, to sell out all of Central America to imperialism.

I would like to give my evaluation of this Alvarez after observing his conduct. He is a real traitor to the people of Honduras, and not only to the Hondurans, but to all the peoples of Central America. He is an unconditional instrument of North American imperialism, a true fascist. A man who, if he feels that within the next few weeks President Suazo has not totally aligned himself with imperialistic objectives, is going to deliver a coup d'etat.

Since last month, large Honduran forces have commenced invading our territory. They have been, and will be, defeated, because our people are no longer disposed to submit to being enslaved once again.

This signifies regionalization of the conflict, and then new problems crop up: problems inside Honduras itself, because the Honduran people are not in agreement with sending Honduran peasants, workers and students to die in other Central American countries in order to suffocate the liberty of Salvadoran workers and peasants. Undoubtedly, the Honduran people are going to turn their arms against the puppets of imperialism, and the war in Central America

will be regionalized. We might say we are at the threshold of war, but it is more adequate to say that all of Central America is at war.

Guatemala has been at war since 1961. Nicaragua defeated the Somoza tyranny, and imperialism is infiltrating bands - not a single band, but real Playa Giron invasion forces - to war against the people of Nicaragua. It is a war that will achieve absolutely none of imperialism's objectives, but entirely the contrary.

The Honduran people are also commencing to take up arms and to combine all forms of struggle.

In Costa Rica, despite the democratic will and desires of the noble Costa Rican people, the war has also commenced. It has commenced, not because the Costa Rican people desire it, but because the CIA and the Reagan government are converting Costa Rica into a military base against the Nicaraguan revolution.

Monge's government is going to grant military bases in Costa Rica to the Reagan government. Monge's government is receiving the aid and advice of Israel. It is receiving aid and military advice from Taiwan, and it is even establishing relations with South Africa, so it will wind up being supported and supplied militarily by the most tarnished and reactionary governments of the world.

We can say that all Central America is at war at this moment. In this situation the Honduran forces are too few to carry out all the aggressive missions the imperialists have assigned them: to destroy the revolutionary forces of El Salvador, intervene in Nicaragua, etc. The role assigned to Honduras, within the Reagan strategy, is too broad for it to accomplish.

Now we come to the third phase of this escalation. The Guatemalan army is pinned down by its own people, the Salvadoran army even more so. Thus comes the third phase: the direct intervention of imperialism at a certain moment. I am not saying at this moment, or within a month; that is impossible to say. It even appears to us that during the past weeks, Reagan's attitude with respect to the Malvinas has undermined the possibilities of an intervention in the immediate future.

The dynamic of events, if we study the situation, leads to an intervention in the region, because this whole region is kindling a revolutionary flame leading to its liberation, its self-determination, its independence and freedom, and in the measure that imperialism pours more forces into this region, it will achieve contrary results.

The worldwide policy of aggressive bellicosity will become more committed; North American imperialism will be committed in a situation that it cannot halt. It will have to send North American youths to Central America. The North American people, who are by nature generous and who do not agree with this warmongering policy, will have to suffer the pain of having the sons of democratic, progressive families killed by Reagan's insensate policy, but you may be sure that this will be the dawn of liberty for all Central American peoples.

Question: The imperialist forces boast of two victories recently won by naked force and the high technological quality of their arms: that of the Malvinas and that of Beirut. How effective would such a crushing intervention prove to be in Central America?

Marcial: A few weeks ago I had the honor of visiting with the Palestinian and progressive Lebanese leaders and combatants south of Beirut. During those days I deeply felt a historic fact that is happening to all humanity as I sat beside the trenches conversing with the combatants, trenches which faced the Israeli positions on the other side of the Litani river.

I felt how the march of peoples is leading to a situation more palpable than ever before; how I, a simple Salvadoran combatant who had recently left the encampments of our revolutionary army in Chalatenango and other parts of our country, found myself in the trenches of the Palestinian companions, seeing before me, only a few hundred yards away behind the trees, Israeli tanks, and seeing how these weatherbeaten men, firmly resolved to fight for their country -for Palestine- were willing to shed the last drop of their blood for their ideal of freedom.

In the words of the Palestinian combatants I felt their resolve to fight against a bloodthirsty, atrocious enemy, equipped with all the modern machinery of war. Hearing their words, I felt that I was with my own combatants, since they were saying, behind Israel stands the government of Reagan. This is a war of the rapacious Israeli interests, but it is not only their war, it is the war of the United States against the Palestinian people.

When I spoke, even though I wanted to, I couldn't tell them anything different. I said to them: they are bombing our towns, all the arms are North American, the Salvadoran people's would last only a few days if they weren't sustained by the direct advice and all the arms of the North American government.

Then we saw it was the identical policy of North American imperialism acting against Palestine, against Lebanon, against the Arab countries, against the petroleum regions: the identical policy that was acting against Central America and the Caribbean.

We and they ended in a deep revolutionary mystique; we ended by saying more or less these words: Brothers, we are distant from one another, but the enemy who attacks us is the same. Each blow you strike against imperialism in Lebanon, in Palestine, is a blow that helps the struggle of the Salvadoran people; and each blow we strike in Chalatenango, in Guazapa, in San Vicente, in Morazan, is a blow that helps your struggle. Although we are many kilometers apart, we share a common cause.

Some days later, I was at the Vietnam Congress, the Fifth Congress. The same panorama: 'Who committed such genocide against the Vietnamese, against such a humble and dignified people?' North American bombs, North American military advisers and their puppets, and then, North American soldiers themselves.

Who then is carrying out, who is conducting an aggressive policy against the whole world? It is precisely the Pentagon, the CIA and the most reactionary elements of the North American government.

But here is where they produce an effect that they, perhaps, have not foreseen: all combatants in whatever trench they occupy—whether in El Salvador, in Beirut or in any other country—are profoundly related and linked in a single cause, and imperialism will not be able to shatter such will for freedom, such decision to struggle. Undoubtedly our peoples are going to triumph.

I have felt a profound sadness, a profound anguish, when all the events in Lebanon led to the concentration by Israel of its military might against the glorious Palestinian combatants. And even more so because we had recently been fraternizing, we had only recently been together and we had just seen how the aggressive enemy is capable of committing the worst crimes in the world.

But I am absolutely certain, as I told them—the Salvadoran people are completely certain—that the people of Palestine will triumph in their objectives, that they will not be defeated by any force. Just as we are sure that the Salvadoran people will emerge from all imperialistic political and military maneuvers and will achieve their total liberation.

In the case of the Malvinas, the FMLN issued a communique in which it planted the situation in the following manner: the Salvadoran people are against colonialism, and they strongly support the Argentine people in their aspiration to regain the Malvinas islands, in their aspiration to end the shame of colonialism in that part of their country. Thus we have totally favored the Argentine people in this revindication against English colonialism and against the shameful, but natural, actions of North American imperialism on behalf of England.

In the second place, we planted the following: the Argentine people have a right to their liberty, to their democracy, and to their aspirations for development and progress. The Argentine military tyranny has for years been trying to detain the process of the Argentine people toward the conquest of their aspirations. The Salvadoran people are solidary with the Argentine people on behalf of their rights and aspirations, of their self-determination to achieve a better life; they give their total solidary support to the democratic and revolutionary aspirations of Argentina.

and they oppose the military tyranny that oppresses the Argentine people.

In the third place, we considered the following and so declared in the manifesto: the Argentine government must reconsider and retire its advisers, must withdraw Argentine military and economic aid to the genocidal government of El Salvador. We said this while the United States was still attempting to appear as a mediator.

Afterwards, things became much clearer. The actions of the North American government aroused the indignation, not only of the peoples, but also of a near majority of

Hispanic American governments. This has obliged many governments to partially revise their policy with respect to the OAS and the Rio Mutual Defense treaty and, at a certain moment, it produced the near isolation of the Reagan government in relation to nearly all Latin American governments.

Possibly the North American government will have the resources, forms of pressure and submission, that will enable it to reestablish a certain favorable equilibrium within servile, unconditional governments. Undoubtedly the government of Chile favors North American policy, even against Argentina, and there is no doubt that other governments with economic interests linked to those of the North American multinationals, or those whose own economic circumstances are very difficult, will try to resolve them through a new rapprochement with the United States.

The lesson that the Malvinas left for any government and for all the world to see is that imperialism is not disposed to support anything that prejudices or undermines its world dominion in this step: a step in which socialism is advancing on all fronts... This is a difficult lesson for Latin American peoples to forget, and it helps us to unify the forces of all peoples of the continent against the warlike, interventionist policy of Reagan in Central America and the Caribbean.

The most modern technology has been employed in these last conflicts, as much by the Israelis as by the North Americans who provided the most modern missiles to the British fleet and airforce. The most modern techniques have been displayed; it seems as if it were a testing of weapons that had not previously been proven in actual combat: certain types of air-air and air-sea missiles and the submarines.

In Central America the war is still being waged on a lower technical level. The imperialists have begun to introduce more advanced techniques, for example the A-37 which has electronic heat detectors, other types of rockets that are being used, and more...

At this moment, a group of Salvadoran aviation officers is being trained in Panama, exclusively in the employment of napalm and incendiary weapons. We don't know what level of technique imperialism will want to use in Central America, but we are watching historical developments as well. Technology is decisive up to a certain point in certain kinds of battles, but in the final analysis, given the present level of historical development, it is not decisive against a weak people; what is decisive is the strategic sense.

However many crimes, however much kindling wood, imperialism uses in Central America, the people will liberate themselves. The peoples of the world will not stand by with arms raised and permit genocide or the disappearance of a people, but they will help us militarily. North American imperialism is increasing, and will continue to use more revolutionary and progressive forces of the world against each one of its crimes.

Question: A short time ago, in the midst of increasing, barefaced harassments and aggressions, the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua celebrated its third anniversary. What does this trajectory of the Nicaraguan people signify for El Salvador and Central America?

Marcel: There is something it is necessary to emphasize something we said in the message the FPL sent the Nicaraguan companions on the anniversary of the Sandinist Front. The Nicaraguan revolution is something that imperialism cannot dismember. We feel this as Salvadoran revolutionaries.

For Central America, the 19th of July signified the entry into a new phase of its history. Before that, there had been revolutionary successes in different Central American countries, but none had achieved consolidation nor had been so profound. With the rupture of the chain of military tyrannies, with the rupture of the chain of the Somoza dynasty and with the popular and democratic course taken by the people and their leaders, on the 19th of July Nicaragua undoubtedly set out on an anti-imperialistic path.

It seems to us that Central America can never again be the same as it was before the 19th of July. History has changed in Central America and has commenced an advance toward the total liberation of the entire isthmus.

ST. GEORGE'S, GRENADA — INVESTMENT PROGRAMME IN PUBLIC SECTOR

Investment Programme in Public Sector

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada — Grenada expects to spend EC\$394.6 million in its public sector investment programme between 1983 and 1985, according to a World Bank study.

The programme will stress the three main planks of the island's economy — agriculture, agro-industries and tourism.

The central government's component of the total expenditure during that period is projected at \$285.73 million of which 190.39 million will be on new projects, while \$95.34 million will be spent on on-going programmes.

The rest of the public sector spending is estimated at \$107.65 million made up of \$70 million on new projects and \$37.65 million on on-going projects.

According to the World Bank, the on-going effort to improve infrastructure, particularly the construction of the new international airport at Point Salines, of roads and feeder roads, as well as investment in electric power and telephones, is designed to revitalise the three priority sectors.

The government hopes that concentration on these sectors will maximise the long-term growth of the economy and provide employment opportunities, the study said, noting that the government is aware of the need to generate additional public sector savings to finance the investment programme.

It was disclosed that during the World Bank mission to Grenada in July this year, the government presented priority requests by spending agencies, ministries and state enterprises for investment funds for the period 1983-85.

Furthermore, the government is seeking external support for a number of studies, the most important of which are optimisation studies for the international airport in the areas of tourism and manufacturing the agro-industry, the bank said.

Work on the country's agriculture development programme has included the enhancement and upgrading of extension services and technical assistance to individual farmers, and the government has also been providing larger flows of financial assistance for banana and cocoa rehabilitation, the report noted.

It added that the establishment of private cooperatives of small farmers was also undertaken with financial and technical support from the government.

In addition, fertiliser is made available through the Marketing and National Importing Board, which also provides a market for farm products, the report said.

ANA

RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON IMPORTS OF THREE COMMODITIES

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 6 Oct 82 p 3

[Text]

IMPORTS of three items -- chicken legs, canned beverages and granulated sugar -- have been restricted in an effort to protect local industry.

Price Control officer in the Ministry of Trade, Algernon Antoine, explained that local poultry farmers were not getting sales for the chicken they rear, because people were buying imported chicken legs. Although local whole chicken is slightly more expensive than imported legs, Algernon felt local farmers should be protected and encouraged to market their whole chickens.

Canned beverages, mainly imported from Trinidad, have been giving local soft-drink manufacturers, particularly that of Coca-Cola, a lot of competition. Because they come in cans, consumers

find them convenient to use, although they are more expensive and cost the country valuable foreign exchange.

Traffickers, most of them without import licences, have been bringing in granulated sugar from Trinidad, although the Marketing and National Importing Board (MNIB) has a large supply. This causes a glut on the market, and also wastes foreign exchange.

Licences for the three commodities are not prohibited, Antoine explained, but restricted.

This means that less people will be given the right to import chicken legs. Licences for canned beverages will be given only during a holiday season when more drinks are in demand; and for granulated sugar when supplies are low in the country.

EDITORIAL DISCUSSES REGIONAL PLANS TO RESTRUCTURE UWI

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 2 Oct 82 p 4

[Text] The institution of the University of the West Indies (UWI) has, over the years of its existence, served two major functions, both of which are extremely critical to the people of the Caribbean. UWI has served as the major tertiary level educational institution among Caricom states. Additionally, UWI has also been one of the few examples of what is possible if and when genuine Caribbean unity is achieved.

It is most unfortunate, therefore, that for the last five to seven years, some Caribbean leaders have seen it fit to wage war on the regional university. In 1977, it became abundantly clear that certain Caribbean governments were unhappy that UWI was not sufficiently under their immediate control.

The ongoing plans on the part of some Caribbean governments to restructure UWI after their own pride and purposes has had the support of those countries which either feel themselves capable of financing their own separate university around them. The latter position has been expressed by some territories in the recent past.

It has been very unfortunate too that some Caribbean leaders have been recorded, also in the recent past, as having openly expressed their total dissatisfaction with the high number of social scientists qualifying at UWI every year. These leaders have even identified UWI as the breeding ground for the spread of the ideas of Marx and Lenin throughout the region.

The fact, however, that several Caribbean leaders have, over time, felt threatened by the UWI's social scientists is certainly insufficient reason for the proposed restructuring and thus they have had to think up all sorts of other reasons which are put in such fine language as--"greater devolution of authority," "democratisation," and, "facilitating greater local participation,"--all of which, when one examines the content of the many papers presented, are designed to mislead and confuse.

The Ministry of Education's statement has identified the primary losers in the proposed UWI restructuring process as the small poor states. These are the countries for whom quotas are going to be set, if they continue to send students to any of the campuses.

The proposed restructuring of UWI, unfortunately, has not allowed for the small non-campus territories to have an effective voice. It is very unfortunate too, that the small non-campus territories, which for several years have been clamouring for greater UWI presence in their respective territories, have not formulated a common, sufficiently audible, vocal position, opposed to the present proposals.

The responsibility now befalls all those who see and understand the subtle sinister rationale behind the proposed new structure; who recognise that the new structure spells a blow to efforts at greater Caribbean integration; who readily understand the obvious drop in standards which will occur; and, who are committed to regional as opposed to divided and individual development, to join voices in opposition.

The problems faced by UWI since its existence may certainly warrant a restructuring, but certainly not one of the nature that is now being forced down our throats.

CSO: 3298/075

173 CUBAN WORKERS ATTEND 32-WEEK TERM CLASSES

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 2 Oct 82 pp 6-7

[Text]

ABOUT 173 Cuban workers are now going to school in Grenada.

The Cubans, workers at the international airport project in Point Salines, are attending evening classes at the nearby Calliste Government School, in what is the first school set up for Cuban Internationalist abroad.

The Ramon Quintana Educational Centre, named after the Cuban worker accidentally killed while doing voluntary work in January, was set up for three evenings a week in Calliste, by special arrangement with the Ministry of Education and the Calliste community.

At the Monday night opening of the 32-week school term, Cuban Ambassador Julian Forres Rizo explained the school's importance:

"Our people have taken on a colossal battle: for every adult in Cuba to achieve a ninth grade (Form II) education by 1985. Towards this end, 700,000 people are now enrolled in classes.

"But, we couldn't be satisfied without assuring that those men and women who have left home and family to work here in Grenada also had the opportunity to meet this national goal."

Fourteen workers will be doing a primary course and the others will be doing secondary courses at various levels: 63 in the first level, 44 in the second, 40 in the third and 12 in the fourth.

Those that finish the fourth level here and pass a standard exam will get certificates at a graduation ceremony.

The others will continue their course in Cuba.

All the workers will study Spanish and mathematics, but those at the higher levels will also do history, geography, biology, chemistry and physics.

The two-hour classes will be taught by 24 volunteers, themselves internationalist workers or Cuban Embassy staff.

Director of the school is Pastora Hernandez, a Cuban inspector of schools, who has been working in Point Salines since June last year, looking after the workers' living conditions and welfare, including their education.

Cde. Hernandez, the mother of the Embassy's second secretary, Jorge Rodriguez, said permission for the classes came from Cuba's Ministry of Education.

CSO: 3298/075

BANANA FARMERS TO GET ASSISTANCE FROM USSR, EDF, CDB

St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 6 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

GRENADA Banana Co-operative Society (GBCS) chairman Lynden Ramdhanny has outlined a number of indirect benefits that will come to banana farmers, as a result of financial and other forms of assistance from the European Development Fund (EDF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Soviet Union and other sources.

Bro. Ramdhanny, also Deputy Minister of Finance, Trade and Planning, was speaking on Monday afternoon to scores of farmers from Birch Grove and surrounding areas of St. Andrew's, who turned out for the first in a series of island-wide area meetings for banana farmers. Also present were GBCS's newly-appointed secretary-manager, Anthony Isaacs, and other members of its board of directors.

Bro. Ramdhanny gave a detailed report on the present state of the banana industry and the farmers were given the opportunity to ask questions and explain their problems.

The drop in prices for bananas, he explained, is mainly due to a fall in the exchange rate of the British pound sterling on the international monetary market.

Because the United Kingdom is the main market for Windward Island bananas -- including Grenada's -- this has meant that the revenue from banana sales has decreased. From the beginning of last year to the end, the exchange rate of the pound sterling dropped from \$6.60 to \$5 (EC)

In his financial report for last year, Bro. Ramdhanny revealed that

it was a bad year for the industry, compared with 1980.

The GBCS has been paying more than it could afford to farmers by subsidising the industry, Bro. Ramdhanny said.

As a result of negotiations between the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) and the EDF, some \$850,000 was granted to assist in eradicating moko disease which has been plaguing the industry over the past few years.

Bro. Ramdhanny disclosed that the CDB has allotted over \$773,000 to the Fertiliser Revolving Fund, in which farmers

can get fertiliser on a soft-credit basis.

The GBCS has also been able to save some \$50,000 as a result of discussions with St. Vincent's Banana Association on having their spraying plane service Grenada. Spraying helps to destroy leaf-spot disease among banana trees.

"We hope to effect further savings when we get our own spraying plane free of cost from the Soviet Union," he said. The Soviets agreed to supply the plane during Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's official state visit to the Soviet Union in August.

GSO: 3298/075

BRIEFS

BISHOP-CATO TALKS--Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman yesterday held informal talks with St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Milton Cato. Cato was in transit at Pearl's Airport on his way to the United States Virgin Islands for a vacation. PM Bishop and Minister Whiteman went to Pearl's in the morning specifically to meet him. The two Caricom leaders discussed several matters of mutual and regional interest. The discussions took place against the background of the upcoming Caricom heads of governments meeting scheduled to be held on Jamaica's north coast tourist resort area next month, and the People's Revolutionary Government's (PRG) recent initiatives which have secured additional aid for the Eastern Caribbean Islands from the French government through its Fund for Aid and Development (FAC). The meeting also came against the background of last week's re-affirmation by the PRG of its unwavering commitment to regional unity and, in particular, to joint efforts to solve the pressing economic problems of small island states. [Text] [St Georges FREE WEST INDIAN in English 6 Oct 82 ~ 1]

CSO: 3298/075

BURNHAM VISIT TO BRAZIL ASSESSED AS 'MOST SUCCESSFUL'

Importance of New Links

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 10 Oct 82 p 1

[Article by Courtney Hardy]

[Text]

PRESIDENT Forbes Burnham's recently concluded State visit to Brazil must certainly go down as one of his most successful overseas tours since he assumed office 18 years ago.

Not only were many agreements reached, but the two governments were also able to recognise the need for neighbouring states to co-operate and develop good relations, in an attempt to find solutions to the serious crises facing developing countries.

The warmth and friendship with which the Guyana Head of State was greeted from the time of his arrival in the industrial city of Sao Paulo, was a clear indication that here was a powerful neighbour prepared to engage in dialogue with Guyana as its equal and not from a position of strength.

This was made quite clear by President Joao Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo who said: "Brazil does not believe that our area can be organised in terms of power, resulting in

divisions, and hegemonies. On the contrary, it is essential that the Latin American countries feel entirely secure so that they can, peacefully, dedicate themselves fully to their objectives of economic development and social well-being."

And, as if to show that Brazil was serious about developing bilateral relations with its neighbours, the Brazil-Paraguay giant hydro-electric project was shown to President Burnham as testimony of what can be achieved by friendly neighbours working together and co-operating as equals.

During the two rounds of talks between the two Presidents, much importance was placed on the re-establishment of a direct air link between Georgetown and Boa Vista and the establishment of a navigation line connecting Manaus and Belem to Georgetown.

The importance of linking the telecommunication systems of Guyana and Brazil was also seen as another

important aspect of developing friendly relations.

The six-day visit also helped to underline the importance of South-South co-operation as a launching pad for meaningful North-South dialogue for the promotion and subsequent realisation of a more just and equitable International Economic Order.

Within the difficult context of international life, Brazil and Guyana managed to establish a relationship based on trust and which should serve as an example to all nations.

It was clear that the bilateral agreements — especially the agreement of friendship and co-operation, which provides the two countries with the instrument necessary for

regular contacts and exchanges in areas of common interest — have opened up new prospects and new horizons.

The strengthening of the relations must also be seen as part of a greater effort within the scope of regional co-operation in Latin America. This is very necessary in the interest of peace and prosperity in the region and provided both Brazil and Guyana with the opportunity to reaffirm their common support for the goals of the Treaty of Amazonian co-operation.

Guyana on the one hand stands to benefit greatly from Brazil's technology in energy and mining and other related fields while the opening of road links between the two countries will assist trade between the two countries. GNA

Brazilian Commitment

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 10 Oct 82 p 4

[Article by Carl Blackman]

[Text] It would be a gross self-delusion to proclaim that President Burnham's visit to Brazil has put an end to our economic woes and that an avalanche of cruzieros will soon be steam-rolling down to Georgetown. It would be equally wrong to write off the visit as just another public relations exercise in which two Heads of State pose for cameras, bear-hugging each other and making ringing declarations about peace, brotherhood, good-neighbourliness and solidarity on abstract and abstruse topics.

At the minimum, President Burnham seems to have gained a sympathetic ear as he outlined the problems besetting this country. And the vibrations feel so positive that I am tempted to predict that in a few months all Guyana will be convinced that Somebody Down There really likes us.

Over the years since independence, Brazil has consistently held out the hand of friendship. By this I do not refer only to the modest lines of credit for which we are grateful. Our greatest gratitude lay in the fact that, of our three neighbours, Brazil is the only country that has not asserted or revived a border claim and has set up no obstacles to our progress.

The treaties signed in Brasilia underscore her commitment to help us survive and progress as an independent nation. Now, the road to Brazil, the dream of a century and our physical and literal road to hinterland development seems to be getting off the drawing boards and into purposeful action.

If I do not perform verbal bandstands and shout a thousand hosannas, it is because I have seen too many Trade and Aid pacts hailed as the long-awaited economic breakthrough--only to break down after a few short years. True, several of our Development Aid and Trade agreements have helped the country along. Several others, however, have proved to be not so much aid to us as to the donor country; some aid has been used to dump shoddy, obsolete and inappropriate machinery on our doorsteps and, instead of lightening our economic burdens, it turned out to be costly millstones which further retarded our progress.

Some agreements are also tied to matching funds: that is, the donor country puts up half, and we have the burden of finding the other half from internal sources. Where, for instance, can we raise our half of a \$300 million hydro project? Not in a hundred years of bingos and even holding up the Guytrade millionaires at gunpoint. And then some projects never get off the ground because we can find neither enough of the skilled manpower nor sufficient of the materials in the given time. In short, treaties on Trade is one thing, but it would all be meaningless if we have nothing to trade and no money to buy.

So in assessing the various pacts on lines of credit, trade, bridges and road, let us not rub our hands with glee and chuckle, 'money! money! money!' Undoubtedly it is the one of the best deals in years to help us in our attempts at survival. If we work seriously and plan purposely, it could serve to buy us time to build new foundations for prosperity.

But the pacts which go as far as most donor countries can safely go in these hell-catching times do not mean the heavy tilting of the Brazil cornucopia all over Guyana. By our standards in addition to coffee, there is an awful lot of money in Brazil. But the boom of a decade ago which gave optimism that Brazil would be one of the first new industrialised nations has slowed down. Brazil also borrows a lot of money from international agencies. It is all the more significant, therefore, that even in her days of belt-tightening, Brazil seems willing to offer urgent help.

The Brazilians could have given us the blunt brush-off treatment by just saying that while we have our troubles, they also have theirs. We could have been given the old one-two shuffle, used when a hard-up friend drops by: ply him with drinks and good-buddy talk, then guide him through the door before he can make his hard-luck pitch.

President Burnham was welcomed as a President by President Figueiredo. Some of the agreements specify time frames so they could not in any way be construed as manana operations.

Nobody has to spell out what a road from Brazil to coastal Guyana would mean to both countries. In simple terms, the Brazilians would get an easier entry to the Caribbean and a faster flow of goods to the northern regions of that vast hinterland--and we would better be able to last to bust the interior wide open and recover some of its untold wealth. What's more, if the Brazilians help us to relocate the vanishing oil at Karanambo, that would be another exciting development.

But let us not count our chickens or cruzieros before the right time. In the final analysis it is our hard work, our serious planning and our tight operations that will see us through. Even billions in aid--without proper planning--would not bring us real wealth and long term prosperity.

The Brazilian visit has done something to our morale, and it is somewhat consoling to find that, in these times, someone is throwing out a lifeline to Guyana now in dire straits. We are in the unenviable situation of watching blood brothers and some friends we have helped in the past seemingly folding their hands as we thrash about to stay afloat and alive. But let us eschew fat talk and curse them out for their heartlessness. We still need a few more Brazilian type friends as we fight our way out of our predicament.

The struggle continues. But as I said earlier, it is heartening to know that Somebody Down There likes us--and is demonstrating it in a most tangible way.

CSO: 3298/077

GUYSTACK OFFICIAL EXPLAINS USE OF FOREIGN PERSONNEL

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Oct 82 pp 1, 4-5

[Text]

GUYSTAC Vice-President, David Yankana, has explained the recent recruitment of a number of foreign managers and consultants by State corporations.

"Events have shown that we lack industrial experience", Cde. Yankana said in a "Face the Nation" interview recently.

Management and technical skills as well as accounting systems are being upgraded with the introduction of foreign consultant line-management at several government corporations.

Guystac has also intervened in the area of financial management at the Guyana Rice Board, Guyana Timbers Limited and Guyana Fisheries Limited. Guystac, which last weekend celebrated

its 11th anniversary, employs some 18 000 workers in 26 entities.

The Guystac Vice-President gave, as an example of inexperienced local management, the case of falling revenue and low production by Guyana Timbers Limited, until foreign managers were introduced on January 1, this year.

"There have been signs of increased production with the same equipment and same workers", Cde. Yankana said, noting that the experience of the Canadian team now in control led to the discovery that the 80 per cent downed machinery at the industry's Wineperu forestry project was a result of exposure to bad roads, rather than as was

thought of the shortage of spare parts.

Guyana Fisheries too, has seen a turn-around for the better in recent times, and Guystac will shortly sign a contract with an American company for the supply of 25 trawlers. Other steps are being taken to boost the number of trawlers serving the GFL plant, Cde. Yankana disclosed.

The 26 corporate entities which comprise Guystac can be divided into three major groupings — trading and manufacturing; utilities and information; and natural resources.

The Guystac Vice-President said the persistent loss-makers are found in category two — GBC, GEC, and GTSL — and category three — GFL, GTL and GRB.

JAGAN INTERVIEWED IN BAHAMAS, SCORES DOMESTIC CONDITIONS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 20 Oct 82 pp 1, 13

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text]

THOUSANDS of Guyanese have fled their homeland for America, Canada and Suriname because of the desperate economic and social situation plaguing the Caribbean country.

The leader of the Guyanese Opposition People's Progressive Party, Cheddi Jagan, said in an interview today that there were approximately 50,000 illegal immigrants who have fled to Suriname and thousands of others in Canada and America.

"We are having a deep social and economic crisis in Guyana," Mr Jagan said. "Forty-five percent of our revenue is deficit, paid out of the country, and therefore, we also have a severe foreign exchange problem."

Mr Jagan said that there were no consumer goods, raw materials or spare parts for factories available in the country. He also said that flour, although not banned in Guyana, is not available "because there is no money to purchase it."

"In Guyana a regular loaf of bread costs \$8 Guyana dollars," he said, explaining that \$3 Guyana is equivalent to \$1 US.

"One pound of flour costs \$5G and in March of this year a pound of chicken cost \$3.50G and today it costs \$9G. People are having difficulty living in Guyana and therefore you have a mass exodus among the population," Jagan said.

He also mentioned Guyana's 45% inflation rate and said that the minimum wage of a Guyanese worker after tax reduction is \$250G per month.

"But the TUC announced earlier this year that the total expenditure of a worker per month is \$650 for a family of four. Here you can see the plight of the worker, and the situation has eroded to much worse," he said.

Mr Jagan said that the situation in Guyana is "volatile" and that the present government, the People's National Congress under the leadership of president Forbes Burnham, has resorted to "crushing its opponents by constant harrassment" and has been able to retain power only by "fraud and terror."

"The PPP was formed in 1950 and successfully won three elections in a row, in 1953, 1957 and 1961.

However in 1953," said Mr Jagan, "a fleet of British warships came and removed us, even though we had won the election 4½ months before."

He said that after the election victory in 1961 the CIA came to Guyana and intervened by destabilization, Jagan claimed.

"They created strikes and riots and they changed the voting system of the country," he said, "because they realized that they could not defeat us by using the old system, which is the constituency system. They have been able to stay in power by using fraud and terror, by terror I mean victimization," he said.

Jagan has claimed that the government, using the excuse of searching for arms, enter the homes of PPP supporters, and ransack their homes.

He also said that President Burnham and his party has prohibited marching in the streets and that Guyanese are only allowed into the interior of Guyana by permits.

"But sometimes these permits are granted at the last minute when you can't go anymore because you were not allowed to make the necessary arrangements. They then issue

you a permit to say that you are not allowed to remain overnight. The interior is a 60 mile trip by boat, which means that it is totally useless to make the trip if you cannot stay overnight," he said.

Mr Jagan also claimed during the interview that prices in Guyana are three times more than prices in neighbouring countries and that the ruling government has cut social services from 46% to 23% since 1980.

Mr Jagan also accused Burnham's government of using a "racial" political tactic, but said that racial hatred within the country has almost disappeared and the people are uniting.

"What Burnham is doing is telling the masses of people that if the PPP comes back into power there will be Indian domination, but all of that is now disappearing, the people are united. Because of the desperate conditions in Guyana, a mass action will take place and the PPP will be leading this," he said.

Jagan said that the PPP still follows the Marxists policies, which he said, was the only solution to the problems in Guyana.

CORRECTION ISSUED: NO MILITARY PLANE PURCHASES FROM BRAZIL

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Oct 82 p 1

[Text]

... An official in the Office of the President has explained that an AP-GNA article which appeared on Page 8, of the Chronicle of 5th October, 1982, under the caption 'Venezuela is Expansionist' and which suggested that President Burnham said that Guyana intended to purchase military aircraft from Brazil, was incorrect. President Burnham said that Guyana intended to purchase aircraft from the Federative Republic of Brazil, but he expressly explained that they were not military aircraft.

CSO: 3298/077

SHORTAGE OF NEWSPRINT CONTINUES TO PLAGUE 'CHRONICLE'

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 10 Oct 82 pp 1, 6

[Text]

THIS week's "Sunday Chronicle" is printed on yellow Bond Paper instead of on the usual newsprint. The paper is also considerably smaller in size than it usually is.

The appearance of this "Sunday's Chronicle" is a signal that we are coming to the end of our available supplies of newsprint. Early this year, in order to conserve our stocks of newsprint, we were forced to reduce the size of the Sunday paper, from 40 pages to 16. During that period, we have had to accept a reduction in the size of our labour force.

Today we have had to cut from 16 to 12 pages. Next week we will have to offer you an even smaller Sunday newspaper.

This continued shrinkage is a direct result of the foreign exchange crisis which is affecting every sector of our national economy.

Our last supply of newsprint arrived in Guyana late in 1981. Although we had the money in Guyanese currency, it was not until recently, that the Bank of Guyana has been able to allocate to Guyana National Newspapers Ltd. enough foreign exchange to pay our Canadian suppliers, so that we might order more newsprint.

After being paid in Canadian dollars, the company from whom we buy paper promised to ship us a quantity of newsprint, and this is due to arrive here at the beginning of December.

But that still leaves us with a serious problem, between now and the time when that new supply of paper reaches Guyana.

If we continue to use newsprint at our present rate, we shall run out of paper by the end of October.

Apart from the "Daily" and "Sunday Chronicle", GNNL also prints the "New Nation" and "The Week-end". We print a number of "house" organs such as "Sugar News", "Guymine News", "GRB News" and others, which perform the function of keeping our workers throughout the nation informed about developments in their own industries. We supply paper for the "Official Gazette". In addition, we supply paper to the "Mirror" and "Catholic Standard", as well as paper for some important industrial and educational purposes.

We are determined not only to continue publishing the "Daily" and "Sunday Chronicle", but also to en-

sure the publication of every one of the other papers.

Until new supplies of paper arrive in December, therefore, we must find a way of drastically cutting our own consumption of paper. Each Sunday we use 12 rolls (1 000 lbs each) of newsprint to print 80 000 copies of a 16-page paper. From next Sunday we will use only three rolls to print an 8-page paper.

Internally, G.N.N.L. workers have agreed to adopt a number of stringent measures, aimed at improving our efficiency as a company.

We realise the extent to which these cuts will adversely affect particularly the thousands of journalists, photographers, printers, vendors, drivers,

office workers and so on who depend wholly or partly for their living upon the successful operation of

G.N.N.L. it is deeply frustrating for us to be unable to give adequate coverage to the many positive achievements of our nation, our Government and people.

Yet we are grateful that, unlike some other enterprises, which face much more difficult circumstances than we do, we can at least look forward to an improvement in our position by December.

Our Circulation Department will give priority to customers in rural or distant areas of Guyana.

These customers will receive the majority of the copies we print.

We shall continue to meet the needs of those who depend on us, before we meet our own needs.

In the meantime we ask our customers to understand and assist us in our efforts to survive and even hopefully, gain in quality from this temporary crisis

CSO: 3298/077

COOKING OIL 'CRISIS' BLAMED ON GOVERNMENT MISMANAGEMENT

Georgetown MIRROR in English 10 Oct 82 p 4

[Text] The cooking oil situation has reached alarming proportions, owing to the incompetence of the PNC regime. Observers have noted that there is poor planning all around. Government some months ago banned the importation of cooking oil, thereby eliminating a vital source of the commodity. While there is local production of the item, it is not sufficient to meet local demand. Importation therefore makes up the deficit.

Now with the ban slapped on importation of the item, the deficit cannot be made up, and there is a severe shortage as a consequence. As a result of the shortage of cooking oil, coconut oil is selling at over \$5 per pint while dry coconuts sell for as much as \$1 each in the municipal markets in the city. Many farmers who formerly produced copra have switched to selling dry coconuts in wholesale quantities which is more profitable for them.

For many years farmers have been protesting against the poor prices government has fixed for copra but they have been ignored. Whenever the prices of copra were increased, a lot of agricultural inputs were also jacked up in price. This left the copra farmer marking time in the midst of increasing debts. The sale of water coconuts is also a brisk business for farmers and vendors.

As a result of the scarcity of copra and the shortage of coconut oil, the few oil mills are in a quandary. The big Georgetown oil mill, Maharaja Oil Mills has temporarily closed its doors and retrenched some 20 workers. An informed source told the Mirror that management is trying to restart operations as early as possible, but that no one in the firm can say when that would be if the situation fails to improve as far as copra and coconut oil supplies are concerned. The huge crowds of milling, jostling consumers which used to be outside Resual Mahraj Ltd., in Water Street have disappeared as a consequence. This firm distributed oil for the mill.

The source further said that the remaining stocks of oil were sold out on Saturday, 26th September to staff members and the general public.

Mirror also understands that there are problems at the government's oil plant on the EBD and that an investigation is underway into the whereabouts of a large number of drums of oil. In the meantime, Sterling Products Ltd., which depends on large supplies of oil, is hamstrung. There is thus a shortage of margarine and ghee, items which are normally produced by Sterling Products Ltd.

The regime's take-over of Hope Estate on the ECD has had no appreciable impact on the production of coconut oil or copra. Government's employment policies are partly to blame being simply 'voluntarist' in that it relies overwhelmingly on reluctant free labour commandeered from the Ministries, public corporations and enterprises on Sundays and holidays.

Elsewhere the regime's oil policies are in the doldrums. The oil palm project; the oil from rice bran project; the cotton seed oil project; the soya bean oil project; the awara seed oil project, etc. They are all considered flops in terms of Guyana's realities.

In the meantime it is understood that the oil mill operated by Wieting and Richter Ltd., has closed down too, owing to the copra and coconut oil shortage. This is another serious blow to the suffering consumers.

CSO: 3298/077

BRIEFS

CRITICISM OF FOOD COMMITTEE--The regime has appointed a Food Advisory Committee which is to hold office for 2 years with effect from October 1, 1982. Observers view this committee as purely "technical" and not being set up to really tackle the food crisis in a practical manner by removing the shortages and combatting high prices hitting consumers. Members of this Committee are: Dr E. London, principal medical officer as chairman; G. Telford, chief environmental health officer of Ministry of Health; R. Sarjoo, chief meat and food inspector of Georgetown City Council; Dr Leslie Chin, technical director Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation; Dr R. Woo Ming, government analyst Ministry of Health; Errol Christopher and Rhoda Pollard, Guyana Consumers Association; James Griffith, technical assistant, Food Department Banks-DIH. The masses of Guyana who are forced to scrounge all around for food each day want more than "committees." They want an end to shortages. They want more food in the shops. They are opposed to the import ban policy. At present in the municipal markets pork is \$7 per lb, while beef is \$6 per lb. Chicken is \$8 per lb while eggs are \$8 per dozen. Blackeye peas are \$6 per lb while split peas are \$5 to \$6 per pint. Many organisations have come out against the shortages, but their views are not being listened to. The TUC which has been deluged with food motions at its recent conference is conspicuously absent from the Food Committee. Workers can hardly produce to the optimum if they are hungry or malnourished. [Text] [Georgetown MIRROR in English 10 Oct 82 p 3]

GAIBANK LOANS--(GNA)--The Guyana Co-operative Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank (GAIBANK) has approved loans totalling \$7.4 million (G) of the \$9 million food crop loan made available by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). General Manager of the bank, Cde Ivan Carter, said that the bank is still processing other loan applications from farmers and he is certain that the entire \$9 million would be committed before the end of the month. This is in keeping with a condition of the IDB loan which stipulates that the entire \$9 million must be committed before December of this year. He said that the local government organs are contributing to the development of the regions by advocating improved food crop production. The regional administrations have been engaged in fan-out exercises to educate farmers and encourage them to make full use of the food crop loans. He added that plans are being finalised for the importation of agricultural inputs, a component of the food crop programme. The programme is divided into three parts--credit to farmers, making available agricultural inputs such as motor blowers, spray cans and water pumps and marketing facilities. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Oct 82 p 5]

BATTERY PRODUCTION--(GNA)--Friendship Industries Limited is expected to resume the production of batteries this week following the arrival of a shipment of chemicals and other raw materials over the weekend. A senior official of the company said, however, that the quantity of raw materials received is just enough to make about 700 batteries. He explained that the factory normally uses about 200 tonnes of raw materials in a year. So far, he added, because of the country's foreign exchange problems, the company has only received about 30 tonnes for the year and as a result has been forced to cut back on its operations. Owners of motor vehicles have been severely affected by the battery shortage. Traders have been taking advantage of the situation, selling batteries from the Caribbean and neighbouring Suriname for as much as \$600 each. The resumption of operations at Friendship Industries Limited will, however, hardly improve the situation since priority will be given to productive agencies. This means that very few batteries will be available to the public, the official said. Some of the materials that have arrived are lead, oxide, sulphuric acid and lead. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Oct 82 p 8]

TUC VIEWS ON ECONOMY--The Guyana Trades Union Congress (TUC) told a Press conference yesterday the economic situation in the country is now "unbearable." The executive council also expressed concern for the workers who were retrenched from both the public and private sector, but said the TUC has no immediate plans to offer direct help to these workers. "The TUC is not in a position financially to assist retrenched workers," President Samuel Walker said. And First Vice-President George Daniels said that since the exercise, there have been complaints that work performances and standards on the job had dropped. He blamed the development on what he termed "discrimination in the retrenchment exercise." The TUC executive said the body had taken a number of resolutions at its recently concluded conference and expected the government to reply positively to them. Meanwhile, on the question of the tied vote for the post of Third Vice-President of the TUC, the executive council said "efforts are being made to have the persons come together to discuss propositions which will be put to them." The tie involves CCWU President Gordon Todd and UAAWU President Selo Baichan. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 15 Oct 82 p 1]

PEACE COUNCIL APPEAL--The Guyana Peace Council has called on the rich nations of the world to divert just 10 percent of their military budget to provide aid to the poor nations for the production of food and the removal of hunger and poverty. In a statement to mark World Food Day, the Council said: "Let us all raise our voices against war preparations and threats of war. Let us be united in our demand for peace, progress and social development." The Women's Progressive Organisation, women's arm of the People's Progressive Party, called for greater attention and care of the world's neglected people and of its starving children. "We call on the PNC regime to uplift the bans and restrictions on basic foods, control prices and stop discrimination in distribution of goods," the WPO said in a statement lamenting the unavailability of wheat flour, split peas, milk, cheese and other items being sold on the black market. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Oct 82 p 4]

SOCIALIST LEADER INTERVIEWED ON MILITARISM IN COUNTRY

Managua SOBERANIA in English Aug 82 pp 52-58

[Article by Renato Juliu Ruiz]

[Text] Marco Virgilio Carias, maximum leader of the Socialist Party of Honduras, offered the Agencia Nueva Nicaragua an exclusive interview with important declarations concerning the Central American situation, the role that the army of this country is playing in that situation and the dangers of a regionalization of the conflict.

Dr Carias, Director of the Institute of Economic Investigations of the National Autonomous University of Honduras, has also been a member of the Advisory Council of the Chief of State, Coordinator of the Committee of Solidarity with Chile, Coordinator of the Committee of solidarity with Nicaragua, president of the Institute of Central American Investigations and president of the Honduran affiliate of the World University Service.

On 10 September 1981 he was sequestered by agents of the Honduran Army Intelligence service; he was bound, blindfolded and held for ten days in a "safe house" without food or water. At the end of that time, bound and drugged, he was taken to an encampment of ex-Somoza guards on the frontier of Nicaragua where he was tied to the back of a mule, taken into the jungle and left tied to a tree. When he was able to free himself of his bonds, he walked for a long time and after crossing a stream he encountered a peasant who told him he had crossed the Honduran frontier.

During the interview, Carias directly accused Gen. Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, chief of the Honduran army, and Col. Juan López Grijalvo, present G-2 and former head of the National Department of Investigations (DNI) of being directly responsible for his kidnapping and subsequent mistreatment.

THE MILITARIZATION OF HONDURAS

ANN: Different U.S. Congressmen, among them Sen. Pell and Rep. Tom Harkin, have denounced in Congress that the recent concession of 21 million dollars in aid to the Honduran army by the U.S. government represents another step in the escalation of militarization of the latter country with a view to using it as a base of action for an aggression against Nicaragua and a regionalization of the Salvadoran conflict. What is your opinion in this respect?

Carias: The international press at the service of the Reagan administration's policy has been trying to make world public opinion believe that Honduras must arm itself because of the armaments race taking place in Nicaragua. If we examine the question of the militarization of Honduras, we can observe that this commenced immediately after the war with El Salvador in 1969. When that war commenced, Honduras had an army of 5,000 men and the annual military budget was less than 8 million dollars. At present these figures have increased to 25,000 men and the budget, according to official figures only, is 30 million dollars, without counting the direct military aid of the United States, to which you refer, and other previous grants of similar amounts. Actually, this army with the equipment it has and the number of effective troops, cannot spend less than 50 to 75 million dollars per year. This indicates the real dimensions of the process of increasing militarization which has been forced on Honduras by the government of the United States. The air bases and naval bases of Honduras are a part of this militarization.

The Great Patience of Nicaragua

On the other hand, the importance of these military bases to the warhawks of the United States is unquestionable. A good illustration of this is the recent Symms Amendment which permits President Reagan to move troops to Central America where, logically, they will use the bases being built in Honduras to regionalize the war. Along with this consideration, one must take into account the great mobility of North American troops. In less than a day they can disembark thousands of men at the Palmerola base in Comayagua alone and from there they can reach the Salvadoran border or the southern border with Nicaragua in three or four hours.

On the other hand, they are constructing military, naval and airbases and highways in Puerto Lempira and other places along the Atlantic Coast that will serve for a rapid displacement of military forces toward Nicaraguan territory. There is no doubt but what the objectives they are tracing are founded on the creation of bases for an aggression against Nicaragua and have nothing to do with the defense of our sovereignty which is not being threatened by anybody at this moment.

If, until this time, the war with Nicaragua has not taken place, it is owing to the great patience shown by the government and people of that country, because the aggressions have been committed solely and exclusively by the armed forces of Honduras and the administration of President Reagan, who

directly support the encampments of counter-revolutionary Somocists all along the border between the two countries. The problem created between Honduras and Nicaragua is completely fictitious and its justification is none other than to attack Nicaragua, and in the interior to forcefully repress the popular forces of Honduras.

200 Peasants Accused as Terrorists for Demanding Land

ANN: This last aspect that you introduce in your response means that increasing repression is being carried out in Honduras. What are its concrete manifestations?

Carias: We could present a multitude of concrete cases, such as various fatal events that the press has reported abundantly, but besides that we can say that the number of "disappeared" and jailed persons has increased enormously. In the countryside, more than 200 peasants have been jailed and accused as terrorists for struggling to obtain land they can work. At this very moment there is a strike of schoolteachers that the government has threatened to repress energetically. It is because of this that we say the militarization of Honduras also has an internal aspect, which is to halt the popular protest against a disastrous economic situation. Parallel with this, but linked to it, are the external causes, or the invention of said causes, such as the supposed Nicaraguan arms race.

THE "DEMOCRATIC COMMUNITY" IS A SUBSTITUTE FOR TIAR

ANN: *Returning to the so-called Symms Amendment to which you previously referred and which permits the direct intervention of North American troops in Central America, do you believe that its approval represents a lack of confidence in the actions that the Honduran army can carry out with its own forces in the event of a regionalization of the conflict?*

Carias: There are various aspects of the international policy of the Reagan administration with respect to Central America. One of these is the North American amendment that permits Reagan to send troops to the isthmus. Undoubtedly this is motivated by the fact that the U.S. knows perfectly well that with the "puppet army" of Honduras it cannot defeat either Nicaragua or the Salvadoran revolution. Thus they prepare themselves for the possibility of direct intervention in this situation. This is the significance of the Symms Amendment.

But another aspect of North American policy is the integration of the "Central American Democratic Community", with which they attempt to internationalize war and not peace, as they cynically claim. In this way they seek to keep Nicaragua disarmed while Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala arm themselves to the teeth.

From this point of view the Central American Democratic Community becomes a substitute for TIAR, inasmuch as TIAR was definitively buried by the war of the Malvinas. If Washington is taking all of these measures, it is precisely because they are seeking a way of making war on Nicaragua and defeating the Central American revolutionary movement.

Divergences Exist Within the Honduran Army

ANN: Various foreign correspondents and political personalities of the continent who have perceived the Honduran situation from within Honduras itself, have declared that the real power in the country is exercised by the army chief, Gen Alvarez Martinez and they have also observed important discrepancies within the army itself. Do you coincide or differ with these appreciations?

Carias: Alvarez Martinez is the symbol of repression in Honduras. That is to say he is a man who has earned the scorn and repudiation of the Honduran people because his military career is smeared with repression. It is because of this that we separate the bulk of the Honduran army from what the top military leadership is doing under Alvarez's orders. We understand that in the Honduran army there are important sectors who today have no representation but who do not share the bellicose, repressive policies of Alvarez Martinez. We must remember the assault that the present army chief directed against the peasant enterprise of Isleta where the first peasant attempts to create their own centers of production were destroyed and the peasant leaders arrested.

Gen Alvarez Martinez Is an Employee of Standard Fruit

"It was he as well who introduced the system of burning down peasant huts, which, as in the previous case, was an operation ordered by the Standard Fruit Company which paid him 5,000 dollars a month (photocopies of the checks were published in the Honduras press). It was precisely because of these repressive antecedents that the North American intelligence services chose him as their "man of confidence" within the Honduras army. It is also Alvarez who introduced into our country modern methods of torture, the system of "disappearances" and clandestine cemeteries, all of which were imported from Argentina and Chile.

It was a great frustration for the Honduran people to know that a supposedly democratic, liberal and progressive government could name as chief of the armed forces Gen. Gustavo Alvarez, and turn over to him uncontrollable power. With this appointment and an economic policy that is openly anti-popular, the government of Suazo Cordova has been gradually losing the bases of popular support it had during the electoral process. In his inaugural speech, Roberto Suazo Cordova revealed his character as a presidential straw man when he asked the Honduran people "to forget the crimes of certain military men and the corruption of certain military figures".

We believe that the present government policy does not represent the thinking of the entire Liberal party and that the bellicose, repressive adventurism of Gen. Alvarez does not represent the army as a whole, but in clearly delineating these responsibilities, we cannot ignore the fact that the actual ruling sectors in the heart of the army and the government can lead the country into situations which will later be cause for profound lamentation".

CSO: 3200/12

GOVERNMENT UNHAPPY WITH U.S. SUGAR QUOTA

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Sep 82 p 36

[Text] Tegucigalpa--The Honduran Government has expressed regret that the United States has assigned to it a 28,000 ton sugar export quota.

Gustavo Alfaro Zelaya, minister of economy, said that the official report on the American sugar policy has caused serious concern since it is not in keeping with "Honduras' good intentions of strengthening its relations with the United States which were shaped during President Roberto Suazo Cordova's visit to Washington."

The official stressed that the report states "that the total quota assigned by the United States is 2,800,000 tons, of which Honduras is granted 1 percent, that is, 28,000 tons."

Alfaro said, "What is tragic and frustrating about the American government's decision is that other countries who adopt positions which are not consistent with those of the United States have more influence than Honduras which is considered a friendly nation."

As an alternate solution a decision was made to increase local sugar consumption, to increase exports of products containing sugar and to push forward a project for a plant to produce gasohol or alcohol as a fuel gradually to replace gasoline. In addition, the possibility of exporting refined sugar to Mexico, Costa Rica and Venezuela is being studied. At the present time there are in warehouses 23,000 tons surplus sugar which were expected to be sold before the end of December 1982 when the new harvest begins.

He pointed out that "This year alone, Honduras expected to sell on the American market 43,000 tons, leaving a surplus to sell on other markets but we were assigned a percentage quota based on the 1974 production without taking into account that the present capacity and production are larger."

9204

CSO: 3248/87

BRIEFS

COPPER DEPOSITS--Tegucigalpa--Honduras has copper and barite deposits in the Olancho region which if exploited could produce an income of several million lempiras for the nation besides providing employment for many persons. According to a Ministry of Natural Resources report, in the part of the Olancho region which is adjacent to the La Mosquitia area there are rich deposits of barite which is in great demand because of its use in petroleum exploration. In what can be called the surface of the deposit alone, the report states that there are at least an estimated 300 tons of this mineral, worth 80 lempiras a ton on the international market. The fact that on the surface alone there is such an enormous amount of mineral leads the Natural Resources experts to believe that the entire region which is being studied is rich in the mineral and, once commercialized, it could produce for the nation several million lempiras of income. The same report states that there are several petroleum exploration companies which are interested in carrying out a series of studies in this region which represents an investment of about 6 million lempiras and employment for at least 900 Hondurans. [Text] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Sep 82 p 37] 9204

CLAIM TO ZAPOTILLOS KEYS--Tegucigalpa--Yesterday LA PRENSA was informed that within the next few days the Honduran Government will make a formal claim at the international level in defense of its sovereign rights to Zapotillos Keys. This action will be taken through special documents which are not being prepared by the Territorial Studies Commission of the Ministry of Foreign Relations. The problem has arisen because the Government of Belize has included that territory in its new constitution as if it were its own, knowing that historically and legally it belongs to Honduras. Up to yesterday, official sources maintained a general silence on this matter, considering that it is of international importance, especially in view of the stand taken by the Government of Belize. On Thursday, the charge d'affaires of Honduras in Belize, Attorney Octavio Salomon Nunez, arrived at the Foreign Ministry. In reply to an inquiry he just said that up to now there is perfect calm in the Zapotillos Keys although they are obviously being exploited by the Belizeans. Consultations are also going on at other levels, but it was only stated that the Territorial Studies Commission is doing the work which is required for eventually making claim to that island territory. [Text] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Oct 82 p 4] 9204

ENQUIRY DEMANDED IN TRADE BOARD VEHICLE LICENSE CASE

Civil Service Association Call

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Oct 82 pp 1, 18

[Text] A public enquiry into the administration of the Trade Administrator's Department since 1977 was called for yesterday by the Jamaica Civil Service Association.

At a press conference held to deal with the sending on leave of two senior officers within the Department and the transfer of a secretary to one of the officers to the Ministry of Education, the president of the association, Mr Sam Stewart said that the association was concerned that the case was not prejudged.

The two officers, Mr Cornelius Hutchinson and Mr Walter Scott, Chief Licensing Officer and Data Processing Manager, respectively, of the department, have been sent on leave pending investigations into irregularities within the Department. Miss Rema Bailey, who was Mr Hutchinson's secretary, has been transferred to the Ministry of Education. The J.C.S.A. issued a release at the press conference in which it said that rumours were rife and from information reaching the Association there are persons in the Department whom it is reported are accepting bribes and are guilty of corruption in the issuance of licences.

The release went on: "The membership of the Association and the nation wish these persons to be exposed and brought to justice. We are concerned, however, that the case be not prejudged and assassinate the innocent as an example to the guilty."

The Association said it was gravely concerned and its members were incensed at the impression being created that the two officers were responsible for massive authorization of licences which are deemed to improperly.

The Association said that it wished to make it "abundantly" clear that it does not support nor will in any way condone impropriety at any level and is, therefore, demanding a public enquiry into the administration of the Department since 1977.

It was stated at the press conference that Mr. Hutchinson was sent on leave from October 4, without any date of termination of the leave period. The J.C.S.A. has written the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Mr. H. A. Edwards, on the matter.

According to Mr. Stewart, the Permanent Secretary replied informing the Association that the report from the Trade Board was that the two men had processed licences contrary to instructions and had breached policy guidelines.

THE PERMANENT Secretary said that clear investigations were required and it was necessary for the officers to be away while the investigations were conducted, but that they would be given the chance to defend themselves.

Mr. Stewart said that preparations were being made for a meeting between the Association and the Permanent Secre-

tary when the story broke in the news media.

Mr. Hutchinson, who attended the press conference (as well as Miss Bailey), said that the only two persons who could sign the licences before they were issued were himself and the Trade Administrator, Mr. Ed. McKie. While Mr. McKie was on leave, he was in charge of the validations, but that since May he had restricted his validation of No-Fund Licences for motor car import. The trade Administrator went on two days' leave in August.

Mr. Stewart, in reply to questions from the news media, said that the Association had been informed that "touts" were operating from outside the Department and had "boasted" about their contacts inside. Names were called and the Association was in possession of some of the names. Civil servants could be involved.

Auto Dealers' Reaction

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Oct 82 pp 1, 18

[Text] Motor car dealers are up in arms over what they describe as the Trade Administrator's attempts to punish them all for the "corruption and wrong doings of a few."

In telephone interviews with the Gleaner yesterday, a number of motor car dealers expressed dissatisfaction with the current move by the Trade Administrator's Department to recall import licences already issued.

Notices for the return of these licences have been appearing in the press this week and on Wednesday Trade Minister Mr Ed McKie issued a statement in which he said that the reason for the call was the need to know immediately the country's commitment for imports of motor vehicles.

Motor car dealers told the Gleaner yesterday, however, that large scale corruption on the part of some members of the staff of the Trade administrator's Department and the suspicious circumstances under which a few dealers have been receiving licences for hundreds of cars while some have no licences approved for the year, are behind the call.

The dealers repeated a report that while Mr McKie was away from office on sick leave recently, a great number of licences for import of motor cars, running into millions of dollars, were issued. Two senior officers have reportedly been sent on leave and the dealers' view is that the licences being recalled will be scrutinized to ascertain whether they were properly dealt with and who dealt with what.

THE DEALERS said that they are totally in opposition to Government's new policy decision as outlined to them at a meeting on Wednesday. They were then advised, they said, that shipments that have not yet arrived on the Jamaican wharves nor are in transit through already partially financed and order, will not be allowed clearance.

"We did not elect a Government to hide from taking action against three or four dealers who are corrupt", said one dealer. He continued "As it is of the hundreds of cars you see on the roads the majority came through private no-funds licences. But 90 percent of those imported through dealers must have come from ten percent of the dealers in Jamaica". He put the total number of dealers here at 22.

Another dealer complained that there are some dealers who have brought in hundreds of cars for the year while some have had no no-funds-licences cleared. Others he said, only recently got a few licences and now they are being recalled thus adding "delay to delay, and fouling up our commitments."

"Why must they punish everyone for the wrong doings of a few? We who have been toeing the line and falling in with all the Government's requirements are the ones who always seem to be having all the problems. Those who have been blatantly flouting the law get away scot free."

The Government knows the culprits. They must deal with them and let law abiding companies go about their business in peace," he said.

PNP Senate Queries

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Oct 82 pp 1, 15

[Text] An echo of the scandal over the issue of motor vehicle licences which has rocked the Trade Administrator's Department was heard in the Senate yesterday.

Questions on what procedure existed in the Department between January and September this year for dealing with applications for the importation of motor vehicles by individuals and regular automobile dealers were tabled by Senator Hugh Small (P.N.P.)

His questions, directed at the Minister of State in the Ministry of State in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce were as follows: Will the Minister of State state what procedure existed in the Trade Administrator's Department between January 1, 1982 and September 30, 1982, for applications for the importation of motor vehicles by: (a) Individuals; (b) Regular automobile dealers.

--Will the Minister state what amount of foreign exchange was budgeted for the importation of motor vehicles for the calendar year 1982?

--Will the Minister state whether the procedure for the granting of licences for the importation of motor vehicles was monitored by: (a) The Minister of Industry and Commerce; (b) The Minister of State in Industry and Commerce; (c) Trade Administrator during the period January 1, 1982-September 30, 1982?

--Will the Minister state if there was any consultations during the period January 1, 1982 and September 30, 1982 between the Minister of Industry and Commerce, the Bank of Jamaica and the Minister of Finance, concerning the granting of licences for the importation of motor vehicles during the relevant period?

--Will the Minister state the names of the automobile dealers to whom the importation of motor vehicles were granted between January 1, 1982 and September 30, 1982 and the value of those licences and the number of vehicles for which they were granted?

--Will the Minister state how many of the licences were granted to (a) car dealers and (b) private individuals during the period January 1, 1982 and September 30, 1982 was for (i) funded licences, (ii) no-fund licences?

--Will the Minister state whether any senior officials or secretaries in the Trade Administrator's Department have been sent on leave or transferred from their Department during the last three weeks arising out of the operation of the system of granting licences for the importation of motor vehicles?

--Will the Minister state what are the reasons if any, for the transferring of those sent on leave or the persons referred to in Question 7?

--Will the Minister state how many and of what value (a) motor cars; (b) Motor trucks; (c) other vehicles were imported into Jamaica during the period January 1, 1982 and September 30, 1982?

Editorial Support for Probe

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Oct 82 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

Although it might be a case of the good suffering for the bad, as the motor vehicle dealers have complained, it must be agreed that the move by the Trade Administrator to recall all motor vehicle licences in the existing circumstances is a proper one.

On the evidence, it does appear that, during the absence from office of the Trade Administrator, there was suspicion of massive irregularities in the issuing of these licences; and the purpose of the exercise is to find out if there are any "bad" and who they are.

If the investigation proves that irregularities did take place, then this will be for the good of the system; and those who have not been involved in any irregularity have nothing to fear. The most they will have suffered is a temporary inconvenience which, weighed

against the interest of the trade in general and the country as a whole, can be seen to be somewhat minor.

So that such a move, however drastic it might end up in terms of a shake-up of the Department, can have nothing but a salutary effect, and it is to be hoped that the investigation will be as thorough as possible. In fact, having regard to the many complaints which have been made concerning this whole question of the issue of motor-vehicle licences, it would seem that the action that has now been taken by the Trade Administrator ought to have been taken long ago.

As a practical consideration, it is one thing to be widely felt to be inefficient; but is quite another to be felt to be not only inefficient but corrupt. Career officers of

integrity are unfortunately tainted by association with those who are involved in irregularities when situations such as the present one at the Trade Board arise.

All the more reason why the Trade Administrator would be well advised to use this occasion to make a searching examination of the licence-issuing system in the Department, in his own interest, the interest of the trade, and the interest of the nation; and, if necessary, make a house-cleaning of the Department.

In our view, the Government

should accept the principle behind the Civil Service Association's call for a public inquiry but, as a former Administration did in the case of the Jamaica Development Bank, it should appoint an inquirer, such as the Auditor-General, to investigate thoroughly and quietly the operations of the Trade Administrator's Department over the past five years.

The inquirer should have all the authority to interview witnesses and examine documents. This report should be made public as soon as possible after it is submitted.

CSO: 3298/079

SEAGA ANNOUNCES BUDGET FUNDS TO ASSIST FARMERS WITH CROPS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 30 Sep 82 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Edward Seaga yesterday announced that funds are to be made available to farmers in the next budget by way of special loans which will assist them in producing the right crops on the right soil types.

He said the loans would be used as a means of inducing farmers to change their production where this was occurring on the wrong soil type as this was the only way to maximize yields, improve farm gate prices, improve the lot of farmers and improve the quality and quantity of domestic and export crop production.

Mr Seaga was speaking yesterday morning at Jamaica House where he and Agricultural Minister Dr Percy Broderick were presented with the findings of Phase 1 of the Government of Jamaica USAID sponsored "National Resource Assessment Project." The Project is a physical analysis of the country to determine crop suitability based on soil types and climate. It aims at assessing agricultural production potential with particular emphasis on export crops, according to a Ministry of Agriculture release.

Describing the presentation as a historic one, Mr Seaga said that the detailed classification of soil types put forward in the presentation would enable the Ministry of Agriculture to take more accurate decisions about types of production which the various areas can accommodate, relating to a much wider range of crops and on a much more detailed basis.

He said that this had never before been available in this detail and that it would prove to be an essential and fundamental planning tool for policy decision making in terms of expanding agriculture.

Mr Seaga said that as the first practical result from the "historic" study he was charging the Ministry of Agriculture to proceed with an analysis on banana. He asked the Ministry of Agriculture to come up with detailed information on where bananas were being grown, how much was being grown on the wrong soil type, how much was being grown on the right soil type, and how much land of the right type existed where bananas were not being grown. This, he said, would form the basis of policy decisions so that future areas for banana production will give good yields and quality fruit can be determined.

He also asked the Ministry of Agriculture to make a similar analysis on a crop by crop basis for non-traditional crops. Mr Seaga pointed to the need for an inventory (or land bank) of where the right soil types existed for all non-traditional crops.

These, he said, could be used to promote investment in agriculture. Mr Seaga also said that during Phase II of the project, print-out maps will be made showing areas where the wrong crops are being grown on particular soils and where the appropriate soils are for these crops.

Following Phase III, the Ministry of Agriculture will be charged with the actual implementation of crop zoning, the release said.

CSO: 3298/079

TOURIST ARRIVALS UP 28.6 PERCENT; SEAGA PRAISES INDUSTRY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Oct 82 p 1

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Edward Seaga said on Friday night that Jamaica showed a 28.6 percent increase in the number of visitor arrivals between January and August this year and that 1982 could surpass the 1981 growth rate of 20 percent. Room occupancy for the period January to July 1982 has moved to 56.2 percent from 41 percent in 1981, an increase of 35 percent.

The expected rise in visitor arrivals this year, Mr Seaga said, was calculated to result in additional foreign exchange receipts of approximately 24 percent for 1982 over 1981.

The Prime Minister who was speaking at the official opening of the Ruins Restaurant in Ocho Rios, St Ann, described the situation as having "the potential to contribute a welcome improvement to the foreign exchange coffers of the Treasury" and added that it would be of benefit to the workers and others who depended on tourism for their livelihood.

He also disclosed that records of cruiseship arrivals for Ocho Rios will be broken in December this year when 29 vessels will visit the town which he described as being very popular with cruiseship operators.

Dealing further with Tourism, the Prime Minister announced that the Government intended to divest attractions now being operated by Jamaica Attractions Development Company (JADCO) which would go on to create 14 new attractions focussing on beauty spots and other unique features which will be of public interest. These will in turn be divested as soon as they have been properly established.

JADCO is a subsidiary of the Jamaica Tourist Board.

The Prime Minister expressed pleasure at the "turnaround of an industry that was battered and beaten" and congratulated the Minister of Tourism, the Hon Anthony Abrahams who "has done an excellent job in generating the new growth in tourism" which, he said, by comparison to other countries in the world was "outstanding," given the recession that was now taking place worldwide.

Jamaica was one of only three countries in the region which showed growth in the Tourism sector last year, he said.

CSO: 3298/079

NEW SYSTEM FOR FIXING RENTS, IMPOSING PENALTIES INTRODUCED

Assessment Procedure

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Oct 82 pp 1, 15

[Excerpt] A new system for dealing with rentals is being introduced by the Government. This is the setting up of a permanent administrative machinery for the fixing of rents, which will replace the present system of setting of rent by the Rent Assessment Board.

Under the new system, rents will be fixed on the basis of an official valuation and these rents will have to be observed by landlord and tenant alike under pain of penalties which will also be fixed by law.

"The essence of the new system is that determination of rent will in general be by administrative machinery rather than by confrontation. Any person intending to let premises for rent or to continue any existing letting will be required to obtain a Certificate of Assessed Rent in respect of those premises from the Rent Assessment Officer (who will be created under the law)."

This is the kernel of the new legislation which was introduced in the Senate yesterday by Senator the Hon Bruce Golding, Minister of Housing, by way of a Bill amending the Rent Restriction Act.

The new Act will be known as the Rent Restriction (Amendment) Act 1982, and will come into effect on a day to be appointed by the Minister by official notice.

Senator Golding tabled the Bill and also provided a summary of the new rent control measures contained in it as well as a list of the penalties under them.

Highlights of Bill

Kingston THE DAILY CLEANER in English 16 Oct 82 pp 1, 15

[Text] Here are some of the highlights of the new rent control measures:

--The maximum permitted monthly rent to be set will be the equivalent of 5 percent of the value of the land plus 10 percent of the value of the buildings divided by 12.

--In cases where premises are rented furnished or partly furnished, the maximum permitted monthly rent will be increased by an amount equivalent to 1 2/3 percent of the current value of the furniture as specified by the Rent Assessment Officer.

--The new rent control measures will apply to all residential premises as well as to public and commercial premises which were constructed prior to August 31, 1980 and for which the maximum per month rent does not exceed \$10 per square foot per annum.

--In respect of residential premises which are constructed after August 31, 1980, the maximum permitted rent will be based on the value of the land and building on the date when construction was completed.

--Public and commercial premises which are constructed after August 31, 1980 or for which the maximum permitted rent would, under the new system, exceed \$10 per square foot, shall be exempt from rent control, but the landlords of such premises shall be required to apply to the Rent Assessment Officer for such exemption.

--Until a Certificate of Assessed Rent has been issued and comes into effect, the maximum rent which a landlord is permitted to charge is the rent which was being charged on July 1, 1976, or such rent as may subsequently have been approved by the Rent Assessment Board.

--Each landlord shall be required to keep a Rent Book setting out among other things, particulars of the premises, the rental of the premises and the terms and conditions of the tenancy agreement. Each landlord shall be required to produce the Rent Book for inspection whenever requested to do so by the tenant.

--If a landlord demands and receives from a tenant rent in excess of the maximum permitted rent specified in the Certificate of Assessed Rent, the tenant may apply to the Rent Assessment Board which shall have the power to order the landlord to refund to the tenant the amount collected in excess of the maximum permitted rent or to order that this amount be deducted from any rent due or subsequently becoming due from the tenant.

--Any notice to quit served on a tenant by a landlord which does not state the reason for the requirement to quit shall be invalid.

--A tenant shall not sublet the premises or any part thereof without first obtaining the written consent of the landlord.

Housing Secretariat

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Oct 82 pp 1, 15

[Text] A Housing Policy Secretariat is to be established within the Ministry of Construction, a Green Paper tabled yesterday by the Minister of Construction, the Hon Bruce Golding, in the Senate, said.

The Green Paper, entitled "A National Housing Policy for Jamaica," deals with demand and supply in the housing sector, policy issues, policy objectives and strategies, policy co-ordination and review.

The Paper said that the successful implementation of the National Housing Policy will require close constant monitoring and co-ordination to ensure that targets and objectives are being satisfactorily achieved.

Therefore, it will be necessary to assemble all relevant data on the implementation of the policy and on the performance of the housing sector in response to the various policy initiatives.

This will form the basis on which the policy can be reviewed from time to time to ensure its continuing relevance to the needs of the nation.

The Housing Policy Secretariat to be established within the Ministry will have as its primary functions: (a) Development of a socio-economic, physical and financial data on housing needs and on the performance of the various housing programmes; (b) Conducting socio-economic research and analysis for the development of new programmes; (c) Liaising with all relevant agencies and institutions on the implementation of national housing policy; (d) appraising the Government and the Housing Coordinating Committee on the performance of the housing sector in relation to policy objectives.

While the National Housing Policy sets out broad objectives and strategies, it is necessary to translate these into specific targets to be achieved and specific programmes designed to achieve those targets.

Accordingly a three-year National Housing Plan will be developed. The Plan will be extended annually by adding projections for an additional year and revising projections already made based on the performance of the Plan.

In the introduction to the Green Paper, Senator Golding said that any attempt to increase the provision of houses to the required level must address the problems which have been plaguing the housing sector.

These problems included the scarcity of long-term financing, the resultant low levels of investment, massive increases in building costs and incompatibility between the costs of various housing solutions and the levels of affordability of target income groups.

"Government is committed to the task of ensuring that all Jamaicans are adequately housed, and the objectives and strategies stated in the Green Paper constitute the framework within which that commitment will be pursued," he said.

Penalties for Violations

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Oct 82 p 1

[Text] Here are some of the penalties under the new rent control measures:

--Failure by landlord to apply for Certificate of Assessed Rent draws a maximum penalty of a fine of \$5,000 or 6 months imprisonment.

--Failure by landlord to give information regarding the maximum permitted rent to the tenant draws a maximum penalty of \$1,000.

--Failure by landlord to keep and produce the Rent Book carries a maximum penalty of \$1,000 or 3 months imprisonment.

--Overcharging of rent by landlord carries a maximum penalty of \$2,000 or 12 months imprisonment, or both in the case of individuals, \$1,000 in the case of companies.

--Molestation or unlawful eviction of tenants carries a maximum penalty of 12 months imprisonment.

--Refusal by landlord to rent premises or the issuing of notice to quit because of children, carries a maximum penalty of \$1,000 or 12 months for the first offence and \$2,500 or 18 months for subsequent offences.

CSO: 3298/080

BRIEFS

NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR--Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Hugh Shearer welcomed Mr Frode Elmar Nilsen, the new non-resident Ambassador of Norway to Jamaica on Tuesday, October 12. The Ambassador, who is based in Oslo, presented his credentials to the Governor General at Kings House on Monday. Mr Shearer recalled his visit to Norway last year and his discussions with the Norwegian Government. He expressed confidence that during Mr Nilsen's tour of duty to Jamaica there would be a further deepening of the friendship and cooperation which have characterized the relations between Jamaica and Norway. Ambassador Nilsen spoke of his pride in being appointed to continue his country's diplomatic relations with Jamaica and of his enthusiasm for the potential developments that may arise during his tour of duty. Through the work of the Jamaica-Norway Joint Commission there has been an assortment of technical assistance and training programmes, the setting up of the Maritime Training Institute and an array of joint venture projects. The most recent of these to be launched has been the Antillean Food Processors' fish processing plant which opened in June. Mr Nilsen will also be accredited to Barbados, Guyana, the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Oct 82 p 2]

CSO: 3298/080

'DIALOGUE OF THE AMERICAS' FINAL DECLARATION

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 17 Sep 82 p 67

[Declaration: "For a Dialogue of the Americas"]

[Text] From 9 to 13 September 1982 the meeting designated as "For a Dialogue of the Americas" was held in Mexico. For the first time North American and Latin American intellectuals took part in it and common problems were analyzed there.

At that meeting some 300 delegates took part, among them 40 from the United States and Canada, as well as other outstanding personalities of Latin American culture.

At the closing session a Final Declaration was unanimously approved. Because of the importance assumed by cooperation among the cultures of America and because of the role played by their most deeply rooted progressive traditions, we reproduce in full the text of this Final Declaration below.

This is the beginning of a major dialogue among the cultures of America, involved in the currents of the mobilizing trend of ideas and peoples in struggle for their liberation. America, in all its progressive manifestations, has waged a secular struggle in which important and original contributions have been made to the political culture of modern man.

Human rights are considered by the thinkers and peoples of America to be one of the most profound expressions of humanism. These expressions are not only abstract. When Benito Juarez asserted that "among individuals as among nations, the respect of someone else's right is peace," he introduced a new and decisive element into the most advanced thinking of his time, with universal and actual validity. The struggle for human rights in the Americas occurs not only in the defense of individuals but also of peoples. For that reason this dialogue of the Americas has strived to have an initial collective goal of respecting the rights of individuals and peoples, with the cooperation of the cultures of America and of its most profound progressive traditions. It represents, following Suarez, a concrete event favoring peace.

On thinking about progressive intellectuals of the United States we cannot forget such names as Emerson, Whitman, Mark Twain, Hemingway, Vachel Lindsey, Langston Hughes, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Carlos Castaneda, Charles Eastman, and Margaret Mead. On thinking about intellectuals of Latin America and the Caribbean we cannot ignore, among others, names such as Marti, Dario, Quiraga, Alfonso Reyes, Gabriela Mistral, Graciliano Ramos, Vallejo, Fanon, Neruda, Carpentier, and Roque Dalton.

They, and many others, never talked of the sovereignty of peoples in general and abstract terms without relating it to the concrete struggles in which they were deeply and actively involved--from agitation for the political independence of the United States and Latin American countries and of the Caribbean to the movement against neocolonialist intervention in Vietnam, to mention only some of the more important contests of the past.

The continuity of the exemplary attitude of these intellectuals still has specific motivations today at various points which it is essential to highlight.

1. Defense of the revolutionary processes in Cuba, Grenada, Suriname, Nicaragua, as well as the systematic and vigorous denunciation of concrete, daily, and planned aggressions to undermine the progress of these nations.
2. Denunciation of the form of subversive war which has been waged against Nicaragua on the political, economic, diplomatic, and naturally military levels, with the gravest violations of its territory and the strangulation of its economy.
3. Defense of the revolutionary movements of the peoples of El Salvador and Guatemala in their anticolonial struggle against large-scale poverty through the establishment of a democracy and with profoundly national roots.
4. Support of the resistance against the tyrannies of the continent such as those in Haiti and other countries of America where peoples are struggling to exercise their sovereignty and to impose respect for their rights as individuals against torture, kidnappings, and political crimes.
5. Support of the democratic and popular movements of the United States, of its minorities and nationalities, as well as of its workers who are increasingly victimized by unemployment and inflation, with specific attention to the struggles for the survival of the Indian nations which are suffering today from growing governmental hostility against their educational centers, their cultures, their languages, their natural resources, and their lawful territories.
6. The appropriate denunciation of these interventionist acts such as the so-called Symms Amendment, directed unquestionably against Cuba and which authorizes the president of the United States to intervene in the Caribbean and Central America, or the monetary policies against the workers of Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. Reactivation of the French-Mexican declaration for the search of a joint political solution in El Salvador, support for the just demands of Panama for complete sovereignty in the Canal Zone, and the promotion of a dialogue between the United States, Nicaragua, and Cuba as a basis for the only logical and lasting solution of the international problems of the region.

8. Support of the people of Puerto Rico at this historic juncture for their independence and cultural identity as well as solidarity with the Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, and other Spanish-speaking groups in the United States who are demanding the right to express themselves in both Spanish and English in full freedom in their linguistic and cultural development.

9. Denunciation of the economic and financial war which the Reagan administration has declared on the peoples of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the American people themselves, and the search for intelligent and realistic solutions to the serious problems which the economic relations between the two Americas raise.

10. Support of the international clamor against the arms race and denunciation of the fact that the problems of this hemisphere are being used as elements of the new cold war at a time when local armies continue to be trained for a "conventional" civil war against their own peoples.

11. Solidarity with the popularly-based religious movements for liberation, democracy, and human rights.

12. Support of international law which provides the mechanisms to protect the peoples from genocide, armed intervention, the usurpation of our territories and resources, and support for a call to countries so that they may ratify the Convention Against Genocide.

Furthermore and in a very special way, the dialogue of the Americas reiterates its support for the president of Mexico, Jose Lopez Portillo, for his historic and sovereign act of nationalizing the private banking sector.

We intellectuals of North and Latin America have been living and creating so far in watertight compartments, and while there are North American writers and artists who are well known in the two parts of the hemisphere, such familiarity had not led to a complementary liberating dialogue.

A stimulating novelty at this meeting was the open attitude, full of expectation, by North and Latin American intellectuals, prepared to grasp a continental reality which asserts the creative force of the peoples. Another important innovation was the sound disposition of North and Latin America to abandon old prejudices and stereotypes and to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

We intellectuals of North and South America are fully aware of the fact that we are not enemies but rather that our common adversaries are those sectors of economic and military power which in the south and in the north

weaken, harass, mystify, and destroy the best features of our respective communities. Our common enemies are those who becloud with threats the area of the Caribbean; those who discriminate against racial minorities; who kill, kidnap, and torture their fellow citizens; as well as those who train others to become professional torturers, those who hand over the national patrimony in exchange for dishonest privileges, and those who plan human exploitation of a transnational dimension.

From this dialogue unavoidable responsibilities emerge for the intellectuals of the Americas: To use all the media of expression and communication to inform truthfully about the serious situation now existing in this hemisphere, especially in Central America and the Caribbean, highlighting the risk that this implies for world peace if the sovereignty of the peoples is not respected. Also, to become part of the movements which are struggling in our countries so that their governments may pursue a policy of nonintervention and self-determination.

We are convinced that sovereignty is much more than an abstraction, much more than a word, specifically because it is nothing less than the destiny chosen by a people despite all the blackmail, pressures, threats, blockades, and snares. The arrogance of the exploiter or the tyrant is not compatible with the dignity of the one exploited or oppressed, but the sovereignty of a people is always the twin of that of another people.

We are sure that this continental dialogue of intellectuals of itself anticipates a broader dialogue of the peoples of America.

The most attractive triumph that we can achieve is that which stems from the war that we must avoid.

For a dialogue of the Americas!

For the sovereignty of our peoples!

For peace and for life!

2662

CSO: 3248/126

BRIEFS

BORDER HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION SUSPENDED--Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Oct 8--The amount needed to complete work on the southern border highway, which will link an extensive agricultural, oil-producing, tourist (the Maya area), and lumber-producing region will be 8.5 billion pesos. The route of this highway practically hugs the border which delimits this region from the neighboring country of Guatemala. This project, of outstanding importance for communications in the southern border area and on which work got under way in 1980, has now been suspended for lack of funds even though the proposal was made for budgeting 1 billion pesos to it so that work may resume and workers may be paid in 1983. To date 1.3 billion pesos have been spent with some 80 percent of the project still to be completed. Finally, officials of SAHOP [Secretariat for Human Settlements and Public Works] hold that if the necessary funds become available, this road which will run from Palenque to the Montebello lakes passing by Shupa, Chancala, Bonampak, and Rio Lacantum would be completed in 4 years. [Article by Eduardo Moreno Castellanos] [Text] [Mexico City NOVEDADES in Spanish 9 Oct 82 p 3 (Section 4) 2662

CSO: 3248/126

AMBASSADOR IN MEXICO DISCUSSES POSSIBLE INVASION

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 17 Oct 82 'PAGINA UNO' Supplement pp 1, 6, 7

[Excerpts of interview with the Nicaraguan ambassador in Mexico, Mauricio Cuadra Shulz, by Jose Ricardo Eliashev; date and place not given]

[Text] Nicaragua's new ambassador to Mexico has told PAGINA UNO that all indications are that the United States has already decided to sponsor an invasion of Nicaraguan territory from Honduras. The attack would be carried out by former Somoza national guardsmen with logistic support from the Honduran Army and would not be possible without Reagan's complete endorsement.

"All indications are that the decision has already been made," the young diplomat kept saying. He is careful with his words and judiciously assesses the impact of his judgments. Emotional and logically devoid of objectivity when discussing the Nicaraguan Revolution, Mauricio Cuadra Shulz tried hard to mention reasons for optimism to this reporter. But the very logic of his analysis gradually detracted from his upbeat forecasts. Why does President Roberto Suazo Cordova refuse to meet with Daniel Ortega and the chiefs of state of Mexico and Venezuela? Where will the military buildup under way in Honduras to destabilize Nicaragua end? Too many redundant questions, all too obvious answers. At age 29, Nicaragua's new representative to the Mexican Government is making his debut as a promising diplomat in the foreign service run from Managua by Miguel D'Escoto, a Catholic priest. Until just 4 years ago this young attorney, who graduated from a Managua school and did 1 year of postgraduate work in the United States, was just another organizer of underground activities in the urban networks of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN). The July 1979 revolution quickly took him to the National Institute of Agrarian Reform, directed by Jaime Wheelock Roman, where he continued working as a legal adviser

after the institute merged with the Ministry of Agriculture, Cattle Development and Agrarian Reform. After performing international missions in the ministry, Cuadra Shulz was sent to Mexico City, the first post in his new career as a diplomat. Too young? Well yes, Cuadra Shulz is young enough to be Jose Lopez-Portillo's son, but won't the coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, be just 37 next 11 November?

This week the Nicaraguan ambassador took an entire morning out of his busy schedule to talk at length with PAGINA UNO. From our several hour conversation I have chosen portions that are the most pertinent to this week's events.

PAGINA UNO: There is a great deal of talk about the danger posed to Nicaragua by the concentration of Somozist elements near the northern border with Honduras. What kind of danger do you perceive there? How large is the enemy force? What sort of weapons do they have? Who is supporting them?

Mauricio Cuadra Shulz: After Somoza's fall in July 1979, the dictator's National Guard disbanded. As the enemy was retreating, our troops came down from the mountains and occupied territory. The Somozists crossed the northern border with most of their military equipment and even with farm machinery. Our border with Honduras is open and is not marked off. It's not hard to cross it...

PU: How were they received at the time by the then military leaders of Honduras?

MCS: The Somozists immediately received support from Tegucigalpa, which treated them as political exiles. We were confident then that we could avoid problems by taking the diplomatic path. Reagan was not yet in office, and we never imagined that there could be such a flagrant threat from Honduran territory, a territory that we respected at all times during our war of liberation. The Hondurans' support for the Somozists was discreet at first, but as the months passed it became obvious that things had to change. What were initially just disorganized gangs of terrorists gradually became veritable militarized legions. At the moment we are up against a real counterrevolutionary army with sophisticated military equipment and first-class communications and logistics...

PU: What is Nicaragua's assessment today of the real strength, in terms of men and equipment, of the enemy that is dug in on Honduran territory?

MCS: They already have commands and a staff, which are typical of an organized military force; they have high-caliber machine guns (30 and 50) and have even set up barracks inside Nicaraguan territory. There are at least 4,000 professional combatants in their army, and if we include the Indians that they have recruited and brought together by

force, I can state that on our border with Honduras we are looking at an enemy force of 7,000 men.

PU: What is the area where these forces are stationed like and what is going on with the indigenous peoples?

MCS: Well, it's a difficult area, a very dense, very wet tropical jungle where it rains constantly. The Somozists have gotten excellent equipment. They have new, up-to-date weapons as well as food rations that are ideal for that region. There are small, isolated peasant farmer towns in the region, as well as livestock ranches that these bands have repeatedly plundered. The counterrevolutionaries have been successful in recruiting local Indians, such as the Miskitos, the Sumas and the Ramas, often by dint of sheer force; they give them military training and convince them that this is the way that they can return triumphantly to Nicaragua. From the reports that we have the fact is that many of these Indians are simply being terrorized, and we are striving to dissuade them and get them to return to the country.

PU: And what about Honduras's role in all this?

MCS: Honduras has been saying that it can't do anything about the Somozist gangs because it doesn't know where their camps are. This is untrue because we have given them that information ourselves. After our initial concern over counterrevolutionary activity in Honduras, our Foreign Ministry has issued more than 100 notes of protest, but Tegucigalpa has still not yet abandoned its complicity with the Somozists. The Somozists operate with impunity against us while Honduras looks the other way. In their operations against Nicaragua these gangs make use of their tactical superiority by attacking small towns and when they fall back into Honduran territory they get logistic support from there.

PU: In other words, the Honduran Army itself is operating in the region and supporting the Somozists?

MCS: There is mortar fire against Nicaragua as the Somozists fall back. It matters little whether the fire comes from them or the Hondurans; it comes from Honduran territory...

PU: Nicaragua would seem to be a defenseless victim then...

MCS: Nicaragua has a strictly defensive military, which includes our small Sandinist People's Army (EPS), the people's militias and the reserve battalions. We have given our people arms because we do not fear them, because we know that they will use them to defend Nicaragua against outside intervention.

PU: But today's wars are not waged just by heroic militiamen armed with rifles. What has Nicaragua done to arm itself? Who has armed you?

MCS: We have materiel that was abandoned by the forces of the dictatorship and we have also made it a point to acquire more modern equipment.

PU: A few weeks ago a local newsman got his notes mixed up and had you saying that Nicaragua has a powerful air force. You reacted immediately and denied having said that. Why?

MCS: Because the newsman made a mistake. What I said was that Nicaragua feels it has a good antiaircraft defense, that we have good batteries and that we have also bolstered our infantry forces...

PU: But the assertions that Nicaragua has gone too far in its arms buildup have come not only from the open enemies of the revolution. The joint letter that Presidents Lopez-Portillo and Luis Herrera Campins of Venezuela sent to Nicaragua's coordinator Ortega, Honduran President Suazo Cordova and Reagan, asserts that "Nicaragua's armed forces (...) have become disproportionately large in relation to those of its neighbors." What is your opinion of this assertion?

MCS: The letter signed by Lopez-Portillo and Herrera Campins neither contains nor supports charges against us; it merely lists claims that have been made before. But aside from what the letter says, the important thing about this initiative to us is that it calls for a dialogue, and we support this appeal, as Daniel Ortega has already said.

PU: So what basis is there for the assertion about the disproportionate growth of your country's armed forces?

MCS: Our army is, in fact, a large one if you consider it as encompassing our entire people through the volunteer militias and the reserve battalions. But our armed forces will never cross the Honduran border to attack a sister people. Furthermore, after 50 years during which Nicaragua was under the power of the veritable army of occupation called Somoza's guard, commanded by a West Point general, we value sovereignty and self-determination above all else. We are not going to let ourselves be provoked and we continue to invite Honduras to a dialogue at the highest level.

PU: It seems, however, that the Mexican-Venezuelan political initiative did not strike a responsive chord in Honduras...

MCS: We gave an immediate, positive response to the proposal for a summit meeting. We even accepted the date of 13 October and Caracas as the site. But President Suazo Cordova said he could not attend. We don't know why he declined, but I think that the reason could be that a decision has already been made to attack Nicaragua.

PU: Is such a thing possible?

MCS: There is the danger of aggression against us stemming from a fratricidal adventure. But it's inexplicable to me, save for the hegemonic follies of a misinformed Honduran general.

PU: You are obviously referring to the commander of the Honduran Army, Gen Gustavo Alvarez...

MCS: Some Honduran military officers might have wrong ideas about Nicaragua and about how easy it would supposedly be to inflict a military defeat

PU: Perhaps they have additional support within and outside the region...

MCS: There are obviously enormous dangers involved in a limited conflict that could become internationalized. But Nicaragua has friends and brothers that would prevent aggression against us from being carried out with impunity.

PU: How did the coup d'etat that toppled the man Torrijos put in, Aristides Royo, influence relations between Panama and Nicaragua?

MCS: The same ties of friendship still exist between the two countries. Nicaragua trusts that Ricardo de la Espriella's government is a responsible regime that does not want war in Central America. We trust that the existing relations of brotherhood between Panama and Nicaragua will continue.

PU: In contrast, however, relations between Nicaragua and Costa Rica are not as cordial...

MCS: We have no grounds for frictions with the Costa Ricans at the moment. We are carrying on a constructive dialogue with them and we know that there are differences. We are telling the Costa Ricans not to let themselves be manipulated by the United States, not to allow financial aid to become a tool of political manipulation. We trust that Costa Rica will remain firm in its stand of not allowing its territory to be used as a base for attacking Nicaragua...

PU: Yet Eden Pastora is using San Jose as a base for his political efforts against the Nicaraguan Government...

MCS: Yes, but "Cain" Pastora (which is what our people call him now) is not allowed to operate politically as an exile, which is somewhat different from what is going on in Honduras, where there are military operations against us.

PU: Alright. Good relations with Panama, poor relations with Honduras and so-so relations with Costa Rica. What about El Salvador?

MCS: We know that Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia has leveled threats at us, saying that he is prepared to do away with Nicaragua. And you know what? I don't see how he's going to do that...

PU: Nicaragua was explicitly excluded from the recent meeting of foreign ministers in San Jose. What is that a diplomatic defeat for you?

MCS: Nicaragua was, in fact, excluded, but you have to remember that four of the invited countries decided not to take part. I'm talking about Mexico, Venezuela, Panama and the Dominican Republic. The San Jose meeting was the response by the countries that let themselves be manipulated by the United States to the initiatives put forth by Lopez-Portillo and Herrera Campins. The San Jose meeting was virtually engineered by the Yankee proconsul called Thomas Enders, and we could label it another maneuver by imperialism. The United States is trying to sow the seeds of division, distrust and discord in the region, and the destructive meeting in San Jose (to which we were fortunately not invited) set the legal stage for the aggression that is being readied against Nicaragua. We have cautioned that this is a dangerous game for those involved in it. Those who attended ought to salvage their own dignity now...

PU: Whether it is a United States maneuver or not, it was not an auspicious development for Nicaragua. What do you have planned on the diplomatic front to deal with this situation, which is getting progressively worse?

MCS: Our Foreign Ministry has just announced the launching of what we term a Nicaraguan diplomatic offensive. The idea is to prevent the situation with Honduras from deteriorating and possibly ending up in armed conflict. Therefore, we reiterate our desire that the two countries organize a summit meeting to dispose of the problems, and to this end we are sending delegations to three Latin American nations (Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela), to three European nations (Spain, Sweden and Austria) and to the United Nations and the OAS. We want to halt the confrontation and we want the countries that receive us to have a chance to make the United States reconsider.

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CSO: 3248/146

TAX ISSUE CONTINUES TO FESTER; COMPROMISE URGED ON GOVERNMENT

Plea from Opposition Figure

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 13 Oct 82 p 7

[Text]

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, Tuesday (CANA) — Former Opposition Leader Calder Williams has called on the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Government to seek a compromise with business leaders over a controversial new tax.

Mr. Williams, an opposition parliamentarian, said last week's four-day closure of most businesses here to back demands for a withdrawal of the tax brought home the need for a compromise.

He said similar action by the traders could in future cause the public inconveniences.

The former opposition leader also called on government to introduce a proper economic policy which would reduce the need for taxation as the major source of revenue.

Mr. Williams, the parliamentary representative for the north Leeward constituency, said taxation in the form of water rates, consumption tax, house and land tax and personal income tax were already a burden on the Vincentian people.

He added that the controversial three per cent gross turnover traders tax was most "annoying" when one considered that taxes were being misused by government's statutory bodies, with neither the parliamentary opposition nor the public accounts

committee having any power to enquire into the accounts of such bodies.

Mr. Williams warned consumers to be on the alert against any attempt by traders to pass the tax on to them.

Under the law, the tax is not to be passed on to consumers.

Mr. Williams also expressed concern at the 'unreliability' of the island's price control department and 'the absence of a practical mechanism' to ensure that the tax was not passed on to consumers.

The closure of businesses throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines was spearheaded by the St. Vincent Chamber of Industry and Commerce and a pressure group of traders who have opposed the tax, introduced to Parliament last August. More than 150 business people were reported to have backed the action.

The business leaders have said the tax would have severe adverse effects on their businesses and would eventually affect the entire economy of the state.

Government has made certain amendments to original tax measure but has repeatedly said that it must remain. The business leaders have stated that they will continue to press for the withdrawal of the tax.

Minister's Accusation

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 14 Oct 82 p 3

[Text]

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent, Wednesday, (CANA) — The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Minister of Trade has accused big businesses in the state of making huge profits and funneling the money out of the country in devious ways.

The ministers' charge came on the state-owned Radio St. Vincent as he commented on the controversy here over government's three per cent gross turn over Traders Tax implemented last month.

The tax is calculated on traders gross monthly receipts above EC \$5 000 (EC \$1 equal 37 cents US).

The business sector of the state closed down for four days last week to protest the

imposition of the tax, as well as to press for its removal.

Mr. Beache said if the country's large businesses would leave their funds in the country to be re-invested, rather than take them out "clandestinely and in all forms and means and measures", government may not have found it necessary to impose the new tax measure.

He accused the companies of trying to coerce others into committing irregularities and supporting them, so that they (big business) could continue to make large profits and "siphon it out of the country".

Mr. Beache said "we know this. They siphon our hard earned cash out of the country and tell you in the next in-

stance that they working overdraft."

He added "we know that a lot of these businesses, if they would only be fair and have at least St. Vincent at heart in some way, their overdraft, would not have to be as large as it is."

Mr. Beache echoed his earlier statements regarding government's stand on the tax by adding "it is imposed now, it is a fiscal measure and as such I cannot see that government can ever remove this tax completely, at least until we have given it time enough to see how it would work, and what effects it is going to have on the economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a whole."

CSO: 3298/082

BRIEFS

ANOTHER OPPOSITION RESIGNATION--Kingstown, St Vincent, Thursday (CANA)--Vincentian Verold Hadaway, who was appointed a senator by Randolph Russell has resigned after serving only two months, following a change of opposition leaders in Parliament. Mr Hadaway is the second opposition senator to resign in the space of two months. The first was Bertram Young who was also appointed by Mr Russell. Mr Russell lost his job as Leader of the Opposition last month. This happened after Calder Williams, one of three members of Parliament in opposition to the administration of Prime Minister Milto Cato withdrew his support for Mr Russell as opposition leader and supported James Mitchell for the job. Mr Mitchell's mid-September appointment gave him the right to name two opposition senators, as allowed under St Vincent's constitution. Mr Hadaway made no public statement about his resignation, but Mr Young has cited as his primary reason for resigning "incompatibility of thought" between himself and Mr Russell on the issue of unity among opposition forces here. There are no fewer than eight political parties in St Vincent and the Grenadines. The ruling St Vincent Labour Party has 10 of the 13 elected seats in Parliament. Each of the three elected members in opposition is from a different party. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 15 Oct 82 p 3]

NEW UPM LEADER--Kingstown, St Vincent, Saturday (CANA)--The leftist Opposition United People's Movement (UPM) in St Vincent has elected social worker Oscar Allen as its new political leader to replace attorney Dr Ralph Gonsalves. The UPM announcement at a Press conference here followed an extra-ordinary party congress. The party also reaffirmed its commitment to a broad-based change among opposition forces here. Dr Gonsalves, a former lecturer in political science at the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus in Barbados resigned as UPM leader last month. No reason has up to now been given for his resignation. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Oct 82 p 3]

CSO: 3298/082

SMALL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION URGES REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Oct 82 p 3

[Text]

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Wednesday, (CANA) — The Small Business Association (SBA) of Trinidad and Tobago has outlined a "radical" five-year programme aimed at the redistribution of the national income.

The SBA said it sees a need for it to play a more dynamic role in the economy, which must necessitate control of the commercial sector of the economy before the end of the decade, more direct participation in the vital areas of the economy such as construction, housing and agriculture and consumer protection.

The 1 000-member organisation said that the redistribution of the national income has its goal, because the fate of the nation lies in too few hands. It said the incomes situation was a dangerous one, "as it is genuinely felt that those who trap the nation's wealth are not interested in the development of the society, and will gladly abandon Trinidad and Tobago

in a period of serious economic decline."

The SBA manifesto stated that the commercial sector, continues to perform its historical function, "which is to supply the local market with cheap and inferior goods from metropolitan societies at exorbitant prices."

"Profits realised are taken out of the economy," it charged, "very little is left to be diverted to agriculture and manufacture, no new products using local materials are introduced and no funds are channelled into research and development."

It continued: "Consequently, the society remains as producer of raw materials, highly dependent upon a foreign market for revenue and a foreign producer for most goods and services."

"In such an atmosphere," it said, "the development of the national economy is impossible. This also has psychological implications as the absence of local goods and services reinforces the view

that the foreign is better."

The SBA said it believed that it "must agitate" for the establishment of a small business development bank as a joint venture with the government. This institution would co-ordinate the work done by the small business division of the Industrial Co-operation (IDC) and the Development Finance Company's Revolving Loan Fund.

The loan fund arranges short-term three to six month loans for small businessmen and SBA president, James Maule, is on a committee that screens applicants.

Apart from the bank, the SBA wants to set up a finance company, a vehicular insurance company and a life insurance company.

"These are necessary if the organisation is to keep its funds circulating among its membership, bearing in mind that the velocity of money is highest at the level of the small business community," it said.

BRIEFS

FIRING OF CIVIL SERVANTS--Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Saturday (CANA)--The Trinidad and Tobago Government has fired ten civil servants in a campaign to get tough with lax public workers, according to Mr Wilfred McKell, Director of Personnel Administration. "Frankly, I am very concerned over the large number of cases we now have to deal with," Mr McKell stated. A disciplinary tribunal, formally inaugurated two years ago, now sits daily to deal with charges ranging from sleeping on the job to persistent unpunctuality. The body had 81 cases listed for hearing at the end of the first month. The number has since risen to 289, with 269 being processed. There are 20 still to be heard. Of the total cases, 161 involve general civil servants, 11 concern teachers, 54 relate to policemen, 41 prison officer cases were disposed of, 13 involve firemen, while nine involve employees in the statutory authorities. In the ten cases of dismissed workers, three policemen and a prison officer were fired for sleeping on the job while another constable was sacked for using obscene language. For being absent from the job without a reasonable excuse, a hospital attendant was dismissed and a works supervisor was sent off for disorderly behaviour. The Trinidad and Tobago authorities also sent home a driver who used a government truck to transport a load of gravel for private use. A hospital maid was fired for "discreditable conduct," and a tailor was put off the payroll for sleeping at work and using indecent language. The most frequent charge to come before the board is of employees being absent from work without leave or excuse. Mr McKell declared "it is no achievement to me as DPA when we have to fire people. It means that we were wrong in our selection." [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Oct 82 p 3]

FACTORY CLOSING--Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Saturday (CANA)--Regal Products, a local manufacturer of confectionery, icing and castor sugar, has closed down here, and the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) has blamed Government's removal of its sugar subsidy and the high incidence of sugar-based imports for the company's failure. The TTMA has requested a meeting with the state's Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs to discuss the matter. Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers have protested government's recent increase in the domestic price of sugar, which the association says can increase the price of the final product by as much as 300 percent depending upon the amount of sugar used. Removal of the government subsidy on sugar saw the price of the commodity rise by more than 350 percent for sales to the manufacturing sector. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 17 Oct 82 p 3]

BWIA ISSUE--Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Wednesday, (CANA)--Trinidad and Tobago has reacted cautiously to a Barbados announcement that the United States has recognised the state-owned BWIA International as Barbados' official air carrier to service American routes designated in an agreement between Bridgetown and Washington, according to Press reports here. The reports quoted State Enterprises Minister Ronald Williams as saying: "This acceptance of the designated carrier is dependent on certain conditions and until we learn what these are, we are unable to state our position on this magnanimous offer." American sources in Barbados say the Tom Adams Government and BWIA will be allowed to choose two of the four cities from a stipulated group and the rest from a second batch of U.S. points. BWIA's Public Relations Officer, Louis Lee Sing, echoed the minister's view that the implications would have to be studied. "BWIA cannot afford to make mistakes in a matter of this nature," he said. The financially troubled airline recently came under fire when Prime Minister George Chambers, in an address to his ruling People's National Movement (PNM) convention questioned the economic feasibility of continuing to run a state-owned airline that has always been in the red. BWIA has never made a profit in its 20 years and for the first half of 1982 lost \$61.4 million (TT\$1 equal 41 cents U.S.). [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Oct 82 p 1]

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Nov. 20, 1982